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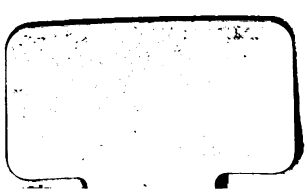

# MEMOIR

OF

# MARY DYMOND,

LATE OF LEWES,

COMPILED CHIEFLY FROM HER

LETTERS AND MEMORANDA.

By HENRY DYMOND.

"The Lord is my strength and song, and is become my salvation."
Psalm cxviii. 14.

LONDON:
WILLIAM AND FREDERICK G. CASH,
5, BISHOPSGATE STREET WITHOUT.

MDCCCLVII.

210. c. 142.

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TO

THOSE WHO, AT VARIOUS TIMES, HAVE BEEN

THE OBJECTS OF

HER WATCHFUL SOLICITUDE AND CARE,

This Memoir

OF

MARY DYMOND,

IS

AFFECTIONATELY INSCRIBED

BY

THE COMPILER.

BIBLIOTHECA · BODLEIANA ·

# PREFACE.

WHILST it is believed that the following Memoir affords an instructive addition to the cloud of witnesses to the sufficiency of Divine Grace, the Compiler would not have ventured to publish it, but for the solicitations of many who loved and valued his deceased sister. He hopes that it may prove interesting and profitable to those who were once her pupils, as well as encouraging to some who are engaged in the work of Education; and especially does he desire, that in perusing this record of her life, the words of our Holy Redeemer, "Without me ye can do nothing," to the truth of which she often bore testimony, may be the abiding impression on their minds.

FIFTH MONTH, 1857.

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# MEMOIR.

## CHAPTER I.

### 1808—1830.

BIRTH—DECEASE OF HER FATHER—CHILDHOOD—PLACED AT SIDCOT SCHOOL—HER CHARACTER AS DRAWN BY A SCHOOL-FELLOW — LEAVES SCHOOL — RESIDES AT IPSWICH — AT EXETER — STOKE NEWINGTON — SPENDS A YEAR IN THE SCHOOL THERE—RESIDENCE AT CLAPTON, WITH EXTRACTS FROM HER MEMORANDA, ETC.—DEATH OF HER MOTHER.

In contemplating the Christian course of the Lord's servants, and observing their diversified gifts and callings, it is consoling to reflect, that, through the abounding mercy of Him "who knoweth our frame and remembereth that we are dust," an entrance "into the joy of their Lord" is the gracious reward of their faithful endeavours to occupy diligently the varied talents with which they have been entrusted. We believe that a retrospect of the life of Mary Dymond, and of its closing scenes, may afford this consolation to her surviving friends.

She was the daughter of Joseph Sparkes and Harriet Dymond, and was born at Lions' Holt,

near Exeter, on the 8th of the Tenth Month, 1808. Her father died in the early part of the year 1810, leaving his widow with eight surviving children, the youngest only eighteen days old.

Mary was an active and intelligent child, possessing an affectionate disposition, and very early displaying an unusual degree of persevering industry and energy. During an illness with which her mother was visited, before little Mary was nine years of age, she was an indefatigable attendant on her beloved parent, performing many offices of kindness and assistance far beyond what could have been expected from so young a child; and in various ways, whilst she remained at home, she manifested an earnest desire to lighten her mother's cares.

In the Twelfth Month, 1817, she was placed at Sidcot School, where she remained five years. Here her energy and determination of purpose were conspicuous in the school-room and on the playground, and procured for her great influence over her companions. One instance of this influence is remembered when Mary and her bosom friend, believing their schoolfellows were not prepared for an approaching examination in their learning, stimulated them to make great exertions both early and late, to avert from the school the disgrace of an apparent deficiency.

Naturally reserved, she was not likely often to reveal the secrets of her heart; yet it is believed that, even in these early years, she was at times

sensible of the visitations of Heavenly Love, whilst her integrity and conscientious adherence to truth appeared to evidence that she yielded, in some degree, to its sanctifying influence. The friend of her school days still survives her, and now writes: "Her temper was sweet and equable. . . . . "She had great buoyancy of spirits, and was the "life of her party, and the leader of our recrea- "tions and amusements of various kinds. But "there was an under-current of thoughtfulness and "a tenderness of conscience, which acted as a cor- "rective when she had been for the moment carried "away by the excitement of the time. I remember "her once weeping on my shoulder, after we had "been laughing at a spider, during the evening "reading on a First-day. I think we were both "often seriously impressed during those solemn "evening readings. I recollect, after Arnee Frank "and some other minister had been with us on one "of these occasions, we talked together of the beauty "of a religious life, and lamented the transient "nature of the impressions made on our minds by "the ministry we heard. I quoted a text which "had impressed me in childhood: 'Oh! Ephraim, "'what shall I do unto thee? Oh! Judah, what "'shall I do unto thee? Your goodness is as a "'morning cloud, and as the early dew it goeth "'away.' Dear Mary said it was just so with her, "and we dismissed the subject for that time, by "concluding that as we grew older good impres-

"sions would be more permanent. Thus youth "consoles itself with the hope of a brighter and "better future; too seldom, alas! realized."

On her leaving Sidcot School in the winter of 1822, she returned home, and after remaining there a few months, went to reside with her brother and sister at Ipswich. She afterwards returned to Exeter, where she was occupied in assisting in her mother's school, whilst many of her spare hours were employed in needlework as a means of contributing towards her own support.

In the year 1826, Mary Dymond spent a few months in the family of some friends at Stoke Newington, as governess to their little children; when an opportunity for further mental improvement was kindly offered her, in the proposal for her becoming a pupil for a year in the school conducted by Susanna Corder. This generous offer was gladly accepted; and she devoted herself assiduously to the acquisition of knowledge and the cultivation of her literary taste.

At the expiration of the twelvemonth, her friends John and Mary Capper, of Clapton, engaged her to instruct their five younger children. This occupation was congenial to her taste; she entered with interest into their pursuits; and the following selections from her memoranda, written during the four years she resided in this family, evince her earnest solicitude that her example and precept might be such as to lead the objects of her care to

the same blessed Saviour whose disciple she ardently desired to be.

"*Tenth Month 7th*, 1828.—To-morrow is my birth-day for twenty years. I long to walk more humbly with my God, and sincerely desire that the following year may be, according to my ability, devoted to Him. May this little memorandum stimulate me to use my utmost exertions. Oh! my Saviour, lead me in Thy holy way, and guide me in Thy path. Give me patience, Heavenly Father, and enable me to conduct myself with propriety towards the dear children committed to my care. Be with me to-morrow, and all the year through, if Thou seest meet to spare me so long.

"*Eleventh Month 20th*.—I am convinced I have not been living in a way which is pleasing in the sight of the Almighty. I have been trusting, as I fear too many do, in my own strength and ability; but I find this will not do. Oh! no, I have been led to see that God requires us to put our trust in Him. It is His will, that we should not only renounce sin, and live what the world calls a good life, but that we should know Him to be our reconciled Father, through the merits of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who died for the sins of the whole world: and He will manifest Himself as such to all those who come unto Him with full purpose of heart, and who bow before Him as sinners dependent on His unmerited mercy. Yes, it is to these that He will condescend to make manifest that

He has blotted out their sins and transgressions, and enrolled their names in the Lamb's Book of Life.

It is believed that an influence of much lasting benefit was exerted over Mary Dymond's mind by one of the inmates of J. Capper's family. She was M. D.'s senior, and having been longer taught in the school of Christ, was made instrumental in animating the younger disciple to press forward in the heavenly race, and to dedicate her whole self more unreservedly to her Redeemer.

The following lines, dated Twelfth Month 28th, 1828, were addressed to this individual :—

" Ah ! Lydia, how I long to be
All thou so fondly begs for me,
All that would please the Lord :
I long to cast my bonds away,
To hear my blessed Saviour say,
' Thy prayers have all been heard.'

" Yet still in Satan's chain I'm bound ;
And though all nature smiles around,
It looks not gay to me :
But could I see my Saviour smile,
Then this would all my griefs beguile—
This, this would set me free ;

" A mourner still upon my way,
Sometimes almost too weak to pray,
Or lift my heart on high ;
Yet still a gleam of hope I see
That all will soon be well with me—
For God can hear a sigh.

" Oh ! may He grant the suppliant's prayer,
And in His goodness deign to hear,
And lift my heart to heaven ;
Oh ! may He haste that longed-for day,
When I can with rejoicing say,
My sins are now forgiven !"

" *Third Month* 8*th*, 1829.—I rose this morning with a determination, which, I trust, was not made in my own strength, to spend this day more to the praise of God than I had ever before done. In the morning I went to Tottenham meeting, which was a sweet one to me. I thought much of the unbounded love of God in sending His Son Christ Jesus into the world to save us from our sins. When I returned home, I fear that I felt risings of anger, because something was said with which I did not agree: but, through the goodness of the Lord, those feelings were quickly subdued. This afternoon I went to the Newington meeting with dear little J. and R. C. H. was there, and spoke very beautifully on the following passage of Scripture :—' Whom have I in heaven but Thee ? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside Thee.' I believe the Almighty's arm was extended over us, and that He is still mindful of His people . . . . . Oh ! may I be kept humble, and my feet preserved in that path which is alone safe.

" 15*th*.—The new Meeting-house at Stoke Newington was opened for the first time this morning. All our family attended. I hope that the assem-

blies there gathered will indeed be blest, and that the Lord will ever graciously remember us. Oh! that we may all wait upon Him in spirit and in truth.

"*Fourth Month 27th.* — O! Lord, Thou who alone understandest the most hidden thoughts of the heart knowest that it is my sincere desire to love and serve Thee more. Enable me, gracious God, to know my will made subservient to Thine! . . . . . O! my Father, be pleased in Thy mercy and goodness to subdue all within me that is at variance with Thee, and make my now unclean heart to become a fit temple for Thee to dwell in. Thou knowest, O! Lord, that it is hard to frail man to trust all into Thy holy hands; but do Thou enable me to do it, and give me strength to drink the cup Thou givest me, however bitter it may appear to Thy unworthy servant.

"*Fifth Month 2nd.*—O! Thou, whom the heaven of heavens cannot contain, be pleased to dwell in my heart. Teach me Thy holy will, and give me strength to do it. I feel that I am very weak and unworthy; I have no might of my own; but do Thou be my strength in weakness, my strong help in time of trouble. O! my Almighty Father, do Thou condescend to show me the way in which Thou wouldst have me to walk, rouse me from my torpid state, and enable me to sing a song of praise to Thy ever adorable name. O! enable me to take up the cross, and follow Thee whithersoever Thou wouldst

lead me. Pour Thy Holy Spirit upon me; and by its cleansing influence utterly destroy all within me that is opposed to Thee, Thou infinite Source of purity!

"*3rd.*—Hannah Kilham and Margaret Woods have to-day been here, to inform me of the receipt of my certificate. Dear H. K. spoke very sweetly to me. May I be enabled to follow her advice, and fulfil my duty towards the dear children over whom I am placed. Oh! may the Spirit of Christ so dwell with me, that they too may feel its enlivening and refreshing influence; and may I, day by day, and hour by hour, more fervently seek to know and to do the will of my Heavenly Father. I feel my own weakness to be very great, and am at times ready to exclaim, 'Lord, who is sufficient for these things?' But I know that He who doeth all things well, will, if I cleave to Him, be pleased to strengthen me. . . . .

"*9th.*—I can look back on the past week with some degree of satisfaction, although I am conscious of many backslidings; but, through tender mercy, I have at times been favoured to know the Lord to be near when I have called upon His name. May the next week be spent more to His praise than the one which has nearly flown. O! God, make me what thou wouldst have me to be.

"*19th.*—In the course of the preceding week I have experienced many sweet manifestations of divine love, for which I hope I feel truly thankful.

For the last two days, I have felt very much depressed; but 'Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me?' The Lord's hand is not yet shortened, that it cannot save; neither is His ear become heavy, that it cannot hear. He has promised, and will perform; and since He has said 'I will cleanse you from all iniquity,' may I not hope that He, in His might, will even condescend to purify me, and make me meet for an inheritance among the saints in light, which is incorruptible, undefiled, and which endureth for ever?"

Mary Dymond's next memorandum records the distress she had felt, by the frequent recurrence to her mind of a passage of Scripture, attended with the temptation to regard it as favouring the doctrine of predestination. She proceeds to remark upon it:—

"This I believe was a device of the enemy to draw me off my guard; for we know that God is no respecter of persons, and that He will save *all* those to the uttermost who come unto Him in sincerity of heart. Christ died for *all;* therefore He will most assuredly save *all* who believe in Him. Oh! Lord, enable me, in the hour of temptation, to lift my heart up to Thee in faith, that I may come off more than conqueror, through Him who loved us and gave Himself for us."

Her diary records her warm interest in the transactions of the Yearly Meeting, then sitting;

and a desire for the welfare of her fellow-members in religious profession. Under the date of 24th of Fifth Month she writes:—

"This morning we had a sweet and refreshing meeting at Stoke Newington. I believe many felt the Almighty to be very near, and His arm to be stretched out for our support. Oh! may we love and serve Him more. Some of our ministers were greatly favoured. . . . . I felt encouraged by what was said; and am afresh strengthened to believe that God is abundantly able and willing to proclaim in my ears, 'I will; be thou clean.' Oh! may my language be—

'Wholly resigned, at Thy blest feet I fall,
And henceforth claim Thee as my Lord, my all.'

"26*th*.—I think this has been the happiest day of my life. I have indeed enjoyed that peace which exceeds the understanding of the natural man. My gracious God has been very near, and I know I am His. Last night I was made willing to give myself up entirely to Him. I was enabled to say, 'Lord, here I am: do with me as seemeth 'Thee good. I am resigned to be anything or 'nothing in Thy hands.' O what sweet peace followed! I know that He heard me, and He answered me with gracious promises. . . . . May I ever continue in a dependent state, and never more listen to the insinuations of the enemy, who is ever busy, and has been unwearied in his

attempts to prevent my casting myself entirely upon the Lord: but I have at length been strengthened to overcome, through the mercy of Him who is always ready to listen to the prayer of those who call upon Him in sincerity of heart. Blessed be His holy name for ever.

"*Sixth Month 3rd.*—More than a week has now passed since I felt wholly resigned to do the Lord's will. He has been graciously pleased to be near, and has blessed me with a sense of His presence. . . . . I am well aware that the Christian's path must be a continual warfare: but, notwithstanding all the trials and difficulties that may attend his pilgrimage through this vale of probation, he would not exchange his situation for all the riches and pleasures that this world could afford. Oh! my gracious Father, grant that my face may ever be turned Zionward, towards that holy city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker Thou, the Lord, art. Be pleased to direct me in the management of the dear little lambs committed to my care, and grant that they may all grow up before Thee as is well-pleasing in Thy sight. Lay low, I beseech Thee, all within them that offends against Thee, and purify them with the precious blood of Christ, which was so freely shed on Calvary's mount.

"*5th.*—The peace of mind which I have enjoyed for the last twelve days, has been very different from what it was previously to that time. I feel

more of the sensible presence of Jehovah, and rest assured that He will condescend to administer more and more of the influences of his blessed Spirit, if I continue, in fervency and simplicity of heart, to approach His sacred footstool. But if I wish to enjoy close communion with Him, I must not only bow before Him, evening and morning, and at noon, but must keep my spiritual eye stayed upon Him, even when employed with the necessary duties of life. Oh! this is the happy state to which I long to attain. . . . . For the last few days, when I have retired from the busy scenes of life, I have been brought into much stillness; but although no words have escaped my lips, He who knoweth all things has known the breathings and desires of my soul; for 'a sigh can reach his throne.' I have at these seasons felt something of—

> 'The speechless awe that dares not move,
> And all the silent heaven of love.'

I desire to be preserved from writing more than I really feel, and trust I shall not fall into that error. I have been enabled to sing a song of thanksgiving unto God for His marvellous love and condescension to me, who am so totally unworthy. The language of my heart has been, 'Bless the Lord, O my soul, 'and all that is within me bless His holy name!'

"*Seventh Month 27th.*—Last Third-day I returned to Clapton, having been absent for five weeks on a visit to my relatives in Exeter. It was truly plea-

sant to be with them; but I am thankful to return again to this place; as the constant visiting which I have had lately is not nearly so conducive to spiritual growth as this more secluded spot. I can with thankfulness acknowledge that the Lord has at times most graciously been near; but I fear that, for want of close watchfulness, I have deviated in some points from the path of the Christian. Oh! may I be preserved in the narrow road, and ever trust in God, knowing that He is all-powerful, and abundantly able and willing to lead us safely on through every difficulty. I feel that there is a great deal in me that needs to be subdued, and that there must be a constant warfare maintained. Oh! that I may walk more humbly, and let my whole life be devoted to Him who is alone worthy! I have often to lament that the fear of man has so great an advantage over me; it prevents me from speaking boldly in the cause which, I can truly say, I love; it prevents me from being faithful in enduring the cross; and sometimes I fear I am almost ready in thought, if not in action, to deny my Lord and Master. Oh! may the blood which He so freely shed cleanse me from this and all other evils; and may I, through Him, be enabled to withstand the temptations of our unwearied enemy!

"In the evening of last First-day, I felt sleepy in meeting, which made me at the commencement unfit for spiritual exercise; but upon lifting my heart up to Him whose ear is ever open, and

begging that He would enable me to worship Him, I was quite roused, and enjoyed a sweet and refreshing season.

"*Eighth Month* 1*st*.—Seventh-day. I have this week been enabled to see a little into my own unworthiness and nothingness, and to feel, that, without the assistance of my Heavenly Father, I can do no good thing. I have been favoured to offer to Him a poor tribute of thanksgiving and praise, for thus permitting me to view the corruptions of my own heart. Oh! may I be still assisted to know myself as I really appear in the eyes of an all-seeing God. I think I may thankfully acknowledge that Jesus has been very sweet to me. It is my earnest desire that I may live nearer to Him, and view more and more of His loveliness. I find that the inward warfare must be maintained, knowing that there are many evil propensities in my nature that need to be kept in subjection. Oh! Heavenly Father, assist me to keep my heart with all diligence; clothe me, I pray Thee, with the Christian's whole armour, that I may be enabled to triumph over sin and the devil."

The reader will recognise in these extracts the same earnestness of character that marked Mary Dymond's earlier years; and whilst tracing her future course, from this time of her "espousals" to the peaceful close of her Christian warfare, it will be instructive to observe the mellowing

and sanctifying influence of divine grace upon her heart.

We continue to quote from her diary.

"2*nd*.—First-day. This is a delightful day! All nature seems to proclaim that the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth! There is to me something inexpressibly sweet in a *First-day*. Stillness seems to reign around; and every object seems to call upon us to worship Him who made us all. I have this morning, during our meeting, been led to look into my own state; and feel that there is indeed great cause for me to be humbled, that I have not made greater progress in my road Zionward. My present attainments are very small. Oh! may I earnestly seek after more grace. O God, strengthen my weak hands and confirm my feeble knees! Grant, I beseech thee, that the fear of my fellow-mortals may not stand in the way of my coming up in obedience to all Thy commands. I know that there is great danger of this, owing to my natural disposition; but, Holy Father, do Thou be pleased to help me; for Thou knowest that I desire to follow Thee whithersoever Thou wouldst lead me.

"6*th*.—I have been very low, through feeling myself an unworthy and unprofitable servant. I am so very frail and weak, that I am not able to serve the Almighty as I desire. May strength be afforded me to withstand the wiles of Satan, who is indeed an unwearied adversary. O Lord! Thou

seest me as I really am. 'Search me, and know 'my ways: try me and know my thoughts, and see 'if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me 'in the way everlasting.'

"*9th.*—It has been very difficult to me to-day to get my mind turned inward; and I have not in meeting enjoyed so much of the sweet influences of the Holy Spirit as I am frequently favoured with. Oh! may I strive more and more to live near to God, and obtain closer union and communion with Him.

"*12th.*—My present religious attainments are small; and this reflection calls loudly upon me to be up and be doing. I have not for some days enjoyed so much of the sensible presence of the Almighty; but I have done nothing willingly to offend Him; and my desires to serve Him are, I believe, as strong as ever. 'He knoweth my 'down-sitting, and mine uprising, and under-'standeth my thought afar off.'

"*15th.*—Another week has nearly drawn to a close; and I can with thankfulness recount many spiritual blessings, which have been conferred upon me by the great and good Giver. Since I last wrote, I have felt very peaceful, and have been enabled again to give myself into the hands of Him, to whom all praise is eternally due. Oh! may I be preserved in the narrow road that leads to everlasting life. Oh! that all would come, taste and see that the Lord is good: for He is not a hard master, but a plentiful rewarder of all those

who diligently seek Him. May I from henceforward be devoted to Him; and may strength be afforded me from day to day to obey all His commands; and that, finally, I may be permitted to appear among the number of those who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb!

"16*th*.—First-day evening. This morning I was very much troubled with drowsiness in meeting, which prevented me from employing the time as profitably as I could wish; but I have been favoured to know this evening meeting to be a refreshing season. Dear William Allen spoke very impressively on the necessity that there is for us, in this day of ease, to be very watchful lest we sink into forgetfulness of the Almighty. I trust we may all be roused, and with redoubled diligence press forward.

"23*rd*.—First-day evening. Another week has passed, which has brought me so much nearer to a never-ending eternity; but what progress have I made towards the new Jerusalem? I must acknowledge many deficiencies, and many lukewarm feelings; but notwithstanding my shortcomings, the Lord, who is ever merciful, has very often condescended to visit me; and I have at times been enabled to rejoice in Him, and have known my Saviour to be exceedingly precious. How is it, O my soul, that thou canst for one moment allow thy love to grow cold! How is it that thou art not constantly in secret praising Him to whom all praise is due! I long to know my heart enlarged,

that I may comprehend more of the greatness and goodness of Jehovah!

"This day has, I hope, been a profitable one to me. May the impressions which I felt in our sweet meetings be abiding, and not pass away as the morning cloud. There is something very sublime in silent worship; for it is at such seasons that 'the still small voice' is heard: and before the footstool of our God can we pour out our soul, whilst His ear alone heareth.

"O Lord, grant that I may live nearer Thee, and make me more largely to partake of the bread of life, which cometh down out of heaven from Thee: for Thou knowest that I love Thee, and desire to walk before Thee with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for whom have I in heaven but Thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire in comparison of Thee. Permit me, O Lord, this night to commit myself into Thy holy care and keeping, and to renew the covenant which I have made with Thee, that with Thy holy help I will be Thine for ever. Amen.

"30*th*.—I am very happy, and enjoy much of the goodness and loving-kindness of the Almighty: but I thirst for more; for I find my need of increase of every Christian grace.

"'More of thy presence, Lord, impart,
More of thy image let me bear,
Erect thy throne within my heart,
And reign without a rival there.'

"I much enjoy retirement: often, when secluded from the world, I am enabled to rejoice in the Lord; but I am well aware that I do not live so near Him as I ought; the things of time will intrude; and an unguarded word, thought or action, frequently brings leanness into my soul. It is necessary to stand continually upon the watch-tower, there listen to the voice of our Master, and leave the world and the things of the world far behind. We are indeed by nature prone to evil and averse to good; and how often have I to mourn over my own weaknesses! But, blessed be God, we have not a High Priest who is not touched with the feeling of our infirmities.

"*Ninth Month 5th.* — Seventh-day evening. Another week of my pilgrimage has run its course. Oh! haste, ye swift moments, and bear me to the arms of my Redeemer; for I long to be with Him, and for ever to sing His praise! But my work in this vale has only just begun; therefore may I patiently wait all the days of my appointed time. It is an unspeakable blessing to be enabled, through Divine help, to keep the mind staid on heavenly things, to hold sweet communion with God, and through faith to behold Him. I rejoice, but with trembling, to be able to say, that I think I am making some little progress in religious experience; but I pant for greater things. I want to be ever praising and adoring my Father, who is in heaven. But ah! how deceitful is the heart! how soon it forgets that

God is omniscient and omnipresent!—how soon does it grow cold and lukewarm towards the King of kings! Oh! gracious and merciful Father, enable me to serve Thee more devotedly—to love Thee much more; and grant that my soul may ever be filled with reverential awe.

"8*th*.—Third-day morning. Last First-day was a precious time to me: both my meetings were very favoured ones. Dear Elizabeth Dudley was there, and spoke very beautifully and encouragingly. What she was led to say, was exceedingly comforting to me, and exactly suited to my present state of mind.

"10*th*.—I have been led clearly to see that the fear of man is my besetting sin. My disposition is such that I find it a great cross to be at all bold in my Redeemer's cause.

"19*th*.—Seventh-day evening. How swiftly the weeks roll round! Oh, that my day's work kept pace with the day! When shall I feel more gospel liberty, and experience an entire deliverance from all unholiness in thought, word and deed? This is what my soul pants after; even a stedfast, faithful, and humble walk with God. I feel the necessity of this, if I live a life meet for heaven.

"I have to-day been impressed with the absolute necessity that there is for a follower of a meek and crucified Saviour to be very careful not to speak an unkind word of any one, or at any time say what would be likely to be injurious to another. I desire to be watchful over myself in this respect; for one

unguarded sentence—nay, one word—is capable of grieving the Holy Spirit.

"*Tenth Month* 1*st*.—Fifth-day evening. I felt very low yesterday, when reflecting upon my own deficiencies; but I believe it is unprofitable to give way to discouragement, knowing that our Heavenly Father is abundantly able and willing to help in the needful time.

"12*th*.—Third-day evening. Last Fifth-day was my birthday for twenty-one years. How very swiftly time flies! May I then improve it to the best of my ability! Oh! may I be armed with lamb-like patience, and go boldly forward, 'rejoicing in hope of my glorious home.'

"*Twelfth Month* 3*rd*.—It is a long time since I took up my pen to write in this way; but of late I have believed it right for me to be still; and I have seen more clearly than ever the beauty of waiting upon the Lord in silence. May I be a true worshipper of Him, be made willing to assist in bearing His standard, and become amongst the number of those who help to build up the walls of Jerusalem.

"*Second Month* 17*th*, 1830.—Yesterday dear Richard Barrett and Richard Burlingham visited this family. They sat with me after dinner; and a sweet and refreshing season it proved. Both the dear friends addressed me; but Richard Barrett spoke for some time very beautifully and encouragingly, and exactly suited to my state of mind.

"21*st*.—First-day afternoon. This morning I was favoured with a very sweet meeting. I was enabled to feel the spirit of prayer, and could (I trust with acceptance,) pour out my soul to the Almighty; not only on my own account, but on behalf of my dear Society, relations, and all the world. It was a silent meeting.

"*Third Month* 6*th*.—I have lately at times felt very low, in consequence of some little circumstances which have occurred; but the Lord has been my helper, and I have been enabled to trust in Him.

"Last Third-day was a trying meeting to me: it seemed as if I could not pray, or have my mind at all turned inward: wandering thoughts much troubled me, and I seemed, for the time, deprived of all good. These seasons, though painful, are, I believe, very beneficial, and designed in unerring Wisdom for our improvement. They teach us that of ourselves we can do nothing; no, not even think one good thing without the help of Omnipotence.

"*Fourth Month* 2*nd*.—For some days it has been as the night season to my soul; and, through not having been often favoured with the sensible presence of the Almighty, I fear I have too much given way to irritability. . . . . Oh! how very necessary it is to stand continually on the watch-tower! To-day the morning has again dawned, and a little light has appeared to cheer the poor traveller on her road Zionward. It is my desire to wait patiently for the Lord, and under every

circumstance to put my whole trust in Him. This morning dear Dorcas Coventry came here to inform us we are become members of Gracechurch Street Monthly Meeting. She spoke very kindly and sweetly to me after the family had left the room.

"11*th*.—Although light has at seasons been permitted to shine through the dark gloom, yet for some time past I have not enjoyed so much of that peace which passes understanding; I have not partaken so largely of the Bread of Life, nor tasted so frequently of that water which nourishes the soul. I have not neglected retirement; but those seasons, which were wont to afford so much consolation and refreshment, have often been barren and unfruitful. I fear this has, in part, arisen from my not having maintained strict watchfulness, and from too much giving way to a listless turn of mind, with which I am often greatly tried; but the Lord is gracious, slow to anger, and of great mercy: He will not hide His glorious countenance for ever; blessed be His holy name! He has been pleased this day to lend an ear to my cry, and listen to my prayer. Oh! may I be thankful! Heavenly Father! permit me at this time to beg of Thee to keep me in the way that I should go, to hold me by Thy right hand, that my feet slip not. Keep me as the apple of Thine eye: hide me under the shadow of Thy wings. Enable me to praise Thee, and exalt Thy great name; for Thou, with the dear Son of Thy love, art eternally worthy!

"17*th*.—This is Seventh-day evening: the time passes very rapidly; but how has it been improved? I trust I have been, and still am, sincerely hungering and thirsting after righteousness; but I am very far from what I should be. The darkness with which I have been surrounded is not yet dispelled; and I oftener find occasion to weep than to rejoice. The latter part of this day has not been well spent. I have done wrong in yielding to temptation, having been much disposed to irritability. Oh! how weak and frail I am, and how prone to err! How much still wants subduing, before I can become all the Lord would have me to be. I feel my great weakness, and my utter inability to help myself. Ah! how necessary was that injunction of our Lord's—'Watch and pray.' May I be blessed with the spirit of prayer; and draw nigh unto Him who alone can help; who is glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders.

"*Fourth Month* 21*st*.—I attended Newington meeting this morning; and, although I was not able to rejoice in it, I believe it was a profitable one. Several sweet promises were presented to my mind, some of which have often been with me for the last few days.

"24*th*.—The last day of the week is again arrived. May my work keep pace with the day! My Heavenly Father knows my desires; for nothing can be hid from Him.

"Last Fifth-day, I received a letter giving me

an account of my beloved mother's increased illness. . . . . She has had many sore afflictions; but the Almighty has wonderfully sustained her, and I have no doubt He will be with her to the end."

In little more than a fortnight after penning this memorandum, her dear mother was removed by death. She deeply felt this bereavement; whilst her calm resignation was strikingly conspicuous, and is sweetly evinced in the following extract from a letter written to her friend Mary Ann Buckmaster, a few days after the event.

"Clapton, Fifth Month 17th, 1830.

"It would certainly have been much more congenial to our feelings, could my dear sister and myself have witnessed the dear remains consigned to the silent tomb; but, from the great distance, and other circumstances, it seemed best to forego the privilege of paying this last tribute of respect to our nearest and dearest earthly friend: it is trying to be so far away. Patient resignation to the dispensations of the Almighty, is, I know, the most pleasing in His sight: this, I trust, we desire to maintain, believing that 'Afflictions from His sovereign hand are blessings in disguise.' The trial of losing our beloved and only parent, is, indeed, great; but we must not murmur or repine; and I trust we feel no inclination to do so, being abundantly comforted in the assurance that our loss is her eternal gain.

"*15th.*—How have I been spending my time since I last wrote? What progress have I been making on my heavenly journey? I have not been going forward so quickly as I might have been. O, no; I have often felt reproved for want of watchfulness. But can I recount no mercies? Yes; my Heavenly Father is still pleased to bless me, and has often sweetly visited me; but I must be more diligent, more fervent in spirit. Oh! may I be strengthened to persevere, and more faithfully follow the true Guide, who teaches as never man taught; and may I be faithful to the little, that I may be made ruler over more, and finally enter into the joy of my Lord!

"*29th.*—When I was on a visit, a few days ago, I gave my opinion too freely about a Friend, and did not speak charitably of her. I have since felt truly sorry for being so unwatchful; and have, in this evening meeting, been enabled to petition the Almighty for strength and grace sufficient to resist the temptation of evil-speaking. May my feeble prayer be answered! and may this memorandum remind me, in future, of what my feelings have been at this time! Ah! how does sin, in any shape, grieve the Holy Spirit, and prevent us from experiencing a child-like simplicity and confidence, when we approach the sacred footstool of our Heavenly Father!

"*Tenth Month 10th.*—Last Sixth-day was my birthday, for twenty-two years. I find much

cause for humility; and feel that I have great necessity to pray earnestly for an increase of the best gifts.

"19*th*.—O Lord! into Thy holy hands I commit my spirit, desiring to be guided and directed by Thee, and led by Thine own Almighty power. Oh! make me more ardently to hunger and thirst after righteousness: and grant, dearest Lord, that I may live prepared to meet Thee at Thy coming!

"*Second Month* 10*th*, 1831.—How awful it is to think, that the Spirit of God will not always strive with man. Oh! may we never slight His reproofs, and become hardened and deaf to His counsel.

"17*th*.—How truly sweet it is to feel that we are under the care of the Almighty, to know that He is our Father, and we His children, though weak and erring."

These extracts from Mary Dymond's memoranda show the state of her mind at this period of her life. She had not yet completed her twenty-third year, but she appears to have become a truly religious character; and it is believed that throughout the remaining course of her life she maintained the desire to be a sincere follower of the Lord Jesus. She had long been exemplary in her general deportment, very thoughtful and serious; but it was during the time of her residence at Clapton that she was enabled to make a full surrender of her heart to the Lord. And then, to use her own words, as they are vividly remembered by

her friend, she could say, "Jesus has spoken sweet "peace to my soul; He has assured me of His "sweet forgiving love. I am very happy, very "peaceful." Her desire to adorn the doctrine of God, her Saviour, was evident to those around her; who cheerfully testify to the uprightness and diligence with which she discharged her duties. Her gentle and loving spirit endeared her to the objects of her care; whilst her decision and strict regard to duty secured their respect.

## CHAPTER II.

1831—1844.

ENTERS THE SCHOOL AT STOKE NEWINGTON AS A TEACHER—EXTRACTS FROM HER MEMORANDA — CHANGES IN THE SUPERINTENDENCE OF THE SCHOOL—LETTERS AND MEMORANDA—DEATH OF A SISTER—HER SISTERS REMOVE TO LEWES—NEWINGTON SCHOOL GIVEN UP—"LOVING RECOLLECTIONS."

After having resided in John Capper's family nearly four years, Mary Dymond resigned her situation there, and became a teacher in the school at Stoke Newington, in which she had before been a pupil. Previously to entering on her new duties, she spent a few weeks with her sisters in Devonshire. Her health, which had been delicate for some time before leaving Clapton, was greatly renovated during the complete relaxation this excursion afforded; and she commenced her career as an assistant in the school, with her wonted energy of character, whilst cherishing an humble and confiding dependence on her Saviour's help to enable her to discharge her varied duties. The following memorandum, dated Eighth Month 10th, 1831,

will describe her feelings on undertaking this responsible situation:—

"I returned to Stoke Newington on the 22nd of Seventh Month; and, although I cannot help feeling my present engagement an arduous one, yet I trust I am thankful that the Allwise Disposer of events has seen meet to bring me again to this quiet retreat. I have been favoured to commit the keeping of myself into His holy hands; therefore, I can believe that it is His will that I should be here. Oh! may I be abundantly strengthened to do what is right in His sight, and so guided in all my ways by His Holy Spirit, that I may be enabled to come in and go out before the lambs of His flock, even according to His good pleasure.

"*Eighth Month*, 1831.—

"Lifeless and poor, O Lord, I come to Thee,
And beg Thy aid to help my feeble prayer;
For e'en the secret thought is known to Thee,
And faith's faint sigh Thou condescend'st to hear.

"Then since I feel my ways are fully known,
And see that nothing can be hid from Thee,
I will, though weak, approach Thy sacred throne,
And Thou, my God, wilt listen e'en to me.

"I ask Thy aid to guide me on my way,
I ask of Thee to dwell within my breast,
To give me living bread from day to day,
And teach me to attain my heavenly rest.

"Oh! purify my heart from dross and tin,
And grant that I may live prepared to die;
That, having triumphed over death and sin,
My ransomed soul may soar to Thee on high.

"*First Month* 22*nd*, 1832.—First-day evening. Went to meeting this morning, with desires to worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness, and heard a striking sermon from Sarah Grubb, which, I trust, may leave a lasting impression. In the afternoon was not so watchful as I should have been, and let in wandering thoughts. I want my heart to become as a well-fenced city, whose bulwarks are so strong that the enemy cannot intrude; but I constantly find that the walls are soon broken down, the door thereof is left unguarded, and the adversary often enters almost unrepulsed.

"24*th*.—Spoke impatiently to some one, for which I quickly felt condemned. Not yet watchful enough over my thoughts, words and actions.

"*Second Month* 5*th*. — First-day. Went to meeting this morning. S. Grubb spoke beautifully on the advantages of silent worship; felt my mind a good deal encumbered, but found that passage of scripture sweetly applied, 'Trust in the Lord for 'ever: for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting 'strength.'

"28*th*.—My mind is at present a good deal occupied with my future prospects. I sincerely desire to leave all in the hands of Him who knoweth all things, and careth for the least of His flock. May I be preserved from taking any step out of His will!"

The foregoing memorandum was penned in the prospect of a change in the school at Stoke

Newington, Susanna Corder having proposed to relinquish the charge of it in the summer of this year. It passed into the hands of a proprietary, with a new superintendent, but the same teachers.

The withdrawal of S. Corder from the superintendence was no small trial to Mary Dymond; but she pursued her onward course, looking for help in the discharge of her arduous duties to that Source from which her supplies had been before derived; and thus continued to realize the experience of the Psalmist, "All my springs are in Thee."

"*Seventh Month 29th*, 1832.—I am once more about to begin the arduous occupation of school-keeping. It seems formidable to have a perfect stranger at our head; but I trust that we may be favoured to live in love and unity together, looking unto Him who alone can effectually strengthen in weakness, and give power to do what is right in His sight. May I be enabled to perform my duty towards the dear lambs over whom I am placed, and daily seek for a wise and understanding heart!"

The Friend who succeeded S. Corder as superintendent left the establishment at the end of a year and a-half, when her place was supplied by Sarah Sweetapple, who, with M. A. Buckmaster and Mary Dymond, continued to conduct the school till it was given up in the summer of 1843. A strong bond of friendship continued to subsist between these three individuals, until she who had numbered the fewest years was called from earth,

to join, as we reverently believe, the company of those who, "having washed their robes and "made them white in the blood of the Lamb, are "before the throne of God, and serve Him day "and night in His temple."

In the spring of 1833, her health had become so much impared that change of scene and relaxation were considered to be requisite. She accordingly passed a short time with her brother and sister at Croydon. From this place she wrote to her friend M. A. Buckmaster.

"Croydon, Third Month 18th, 1833.

"I fear thou wilt begin to think me negligent in not having written to thee before; but I thought I had better wait a few days, that I might be able to report the effect that has been produced by medicine, &c. My dear brother took me to Dr. G——, on Fourth-day, who has prescribed for me, greatly to his and my satisfaction. He honestly told me that no medicine that he could give me would of itself make me well; but seemed to place more dependence upon frequent exercise in the open air, and general bracing of the constitution. I must walk twice a-day away from home when the weather is at all fine. He did not think that I should be benefited by going to the sea, but that I had better remain where I am for a little time. I expect him to see me again on Fifth-day, when I hope he will think me almost fit to return home.

He appeared to think that the situation at Stoke Newington school was too much for my constitution; but I tried to convince him to the contrary. Do tell me every particular about yourselves,—whether thou art overdone, &c., &c. Give my very dear love to all the girls; tell them that I don't know how to write to one without writing to all, but I should be exceedingly pleased and gratified to hear from any of them who feel inclined to write. I often, very often, think of you all. My brother tells me I should not think so much about you; but I should not be like myself if I did not; and, indeed, I cannot help it."

Her health soon mended, and she returned to her duties in the school. The following memorandum, under date of the Tenth Month of this year, shows the continued deep feeling of interest in the welfare of the objects of her care:—

"On the 8th of this month was my birthday for twenty-five years, when I received many tokens of affection from the dear girls. In the evening of First-day week I spoke to them about employing the time of silence before and after meals in a proper way; also endeavoured to convince them of the propriety and advantage of refraining from conversation in their bed-rooms. I have long thought it would be right for me to speak to them seriously on this subject, but, through timidity and unfaithfulness, have omitted to do so until now;

therefore fear that what I said did not make so much impression as it would have done, if I had spoken to them when I at first felt it right to do so. But, notwithstanding this, they did evince a good deal of feeling; and I trust that my feeble effort was accepted; for it was not made without sincerely desiring best help.

"*Fourth Month 5th*, 1835.—Resolved to endeavour to rise earlier, that more time may be allowed for retirement before entering on the duties of the day; and to retire at half-past ten in the evening, that I may not be too tired to reflect upon my thoughts, words, and actions during the day.

"16*th*.—Without a Saviour, I die; without a Redeemer, I perish for ever. Thou, Lord, knowest my peculiar temptations, which, without Thy help, I can in no wise resist: be Thou therefore graciously pleased to send me help from Thy sanctuary, and strengthen me out of Zion. In Thy mercy remember the beloved children, and draw them unto Thyself. Oh! make them lambs of Thy fold."

In the Eighth Month of this year her eldest surviving brother,—George Dymond of Bristol,—to whom she had been much attached, was removed by death. Whilst her affectionate heart keenly felt this bereavement, his peaceful close afforded fresh encouragement to her to press forward in her Christian course.

"*Twelfth Month* 20*th*.—Last Fourth-day our beloved friend Mary Fell paid us our family visit.

I, for one, have much cause to remember the day with humility and gratitude. Cast down within me and much discouraged, she was permitted to hand me the word of sweet consolation, and cause my feeble heart to pour forth strains of thankfulness and praise, and with renewed courage to put my trust in Him, whom I desire above all things to serve. Thou, O Lord, knowest my down-sitting and my up-rising; Thou understandest my thought afar off; and Thou dost know that I fervently ask of Thee that that day may prove an abiding blessing, that all Thy will concerning me may be accomplished, and that I may be Thine in time and through the ages of eternity. Oh! leave me not; help me to serve Thee aright; and grant that I may not lean to my own understanding. Let humility be my covering, and the watch-tower my abiding-place, that so I may hear Thy voice and obey its call, though it bid me tread a path that flesh would not choose for itself, but which Thy wisdom sees will lead to life."

The following note was written in pencil, under date of 28th of Fourth Month, 1836, to her friend M. A. B:—

"I have long wished to ask thee if thou feels any objection to my leaving thee for a little while in the course of the evening, as I have lately done? Do speak candidly; for it would be painful to me to do anything opposed to thy wishes; and I would endeavour to find some other time for a little re-

tirement. This is a delicate subject to speak of; but, as we are situated, I knew not how to avoid mentioning it. My motive for doing so is not, I believe, a wrong one. Conscious of many imperfections, and desirous of becoming a more faithful follower of the Lamb, I feel the necessity of endeavouring to wait upon Him in this way, and to commit my all again and again into His care and keeping. I trust thou wilt not imagine that I value myself upon these things; for I can assure thee that the more I examine myself, the more cause I see for much humility, and the greater necessity I feel of not trusting to my own understanding.

"Thy very affectionate friend,

"M. D."

"*Sixth Month 3rd*, 1836.—To-day I have been informed that it is believed, after examination, that my lungs are not entirely sound. Thou, O Lord, knowest that I am not anxious for life, but that my chief desire is, that I may be enabled to do Thy holy will in this vale of probation, and, when time shall be no more, be prepared to meet Thee in heaven. Thou knowest that as yet I wear polluted garments; but Thou canst make them clean; and in Thee alone do I hope, O! Thou God of my salvation.

"*Eleventh Month 28th.*—This has been a memorable day to me, and, I believe, to many of the dear girls also. We have wept together and shed tears,

which, I trust, have not been disregarded by Him who is the Searcher of all hearts. May my small efforts to do these beloved children good be accepted and blessed by Him who can alone give the increase. I have afresh had to reflect on the great uncertainty of all things here below, and of the infinite importance of being in a state of preparation for eternity.

"*First Month* 19*th*, 1837.—Once more entered on my school duties; and though they were begun in much weakness, yet, I trust, He who is the Shepherd of his flock will be round about me for good. It appears to myself peculiarly uncertain how long I may be able to remain here; but while strength is afforded me, may I use it to the best of my ability, and be faithful to all the requirings of my dear Saviour. May the sickness which has been my portion be made a blessing. Death is very frequently before me; and it is above all things sweet to reflect on the joys of Thy kingdom, O Lord! and to anticipate the day when I may, through Thy love and mercy, be permitted to enter there; but Thou knowest what is best for us, and I desire in humility and sincerity to say,—'Not my will, but Thine, O God, be done.'"

From the year 1831 to 1840, Mary Dymond usually passed the greater part of her summer vacations with two sisters, who were residing at Exeter; when they generally made excursions together, either to some part of the coast of Devon-

shire or beyond the limits of the county. It will be supposed that during the intervals of personal intercourse a regular correspondence was maintained between the sisters; but her letters, though very interesting to those to whom they were addressed, do not offer much for selection in these memoirs.

On the 29th of the Fourth Month of this year, her sister Debora Ann died at Liskeard, after a short illness, and in allusion to this event M. D. writes, in a letter to her surviving sisters, Fifth Month 11th, 1840:—"The accounts received of dear D. A.'s last days are truly consoling, and the only cause of regret is, that neither of her near relatives could witness them; but even this, though so trying to reflect upon, may have been all for the best, and thankfulness should indeed be the covering of our minds in that our dear sister was permitted so sweetly to experience the love of our Heavenly Father, and to be prepared to enter into everlasting rest. I am truly glad that you met with so much kindness from Friends at Liskeard, and that you were favoured to have the company of those who could sympathize with you. How kind it was of E. A. to be so attentive to our beloved Debora, and so sweetly to administer to her wants: and indeed *all* seemed to do what they could to soothe and comfort her. She is at rest, and eternally happy; therefore we need not mourn, but should rather rejoice on her account. Death, with her,

appeared to have lost its sting; and we may crave that our end may be like hers."

Of this sister a short notice was published in the "Annual Monitor" for the year 1841. It is thought that the following somewhat enlarged account of her last illness may be acceptably introduced. Her case appears to afford an encouraging proof that the faithful occupation of the few talents meets with Divine acceptance. From her early years she conceived a great regard to truth, and her subsequent conduct was marked by strict integrity. These qualities, united to an affectionate disposition, gained her the confidence and attachment of the Friends with whom she resided, and of their young children, over whom she watched with tenderness and solicitude, carefully repressing what she believed to be wrong. She had an attack of influenza in the spring of 1840; and although the disorder appeared soon to yield to the means employed for her relief, her strength afterwards rapidly declined.

Being removed for a little change to the house of her Friend's father-in-law, and her weakness appearing to increase, she was asked if she would wish to return home, to which she answered, "Oh! "no; this is my death-bed, I hope; and I am very "comfortable." About the same time she remarked that she had no wish as to the termination of her illness, but thought she could say, "Not my will, but Thine, be done."

At another time when a hope was expressed that she was able to look up to her Heavenly Father, and to commit herself into His hands, all whose dispensations are love, she solemnly replied,—"I "hope I am." "I hope I do." She was earnestly and frequently engaged to pray for the forgiveness of her sins, adding, "My *tenfold* sins. My suffer- "ings are great; but they are not so great as my "sins." On being reminded that we could do nothing of ourselves, she said,—"Oh! no; it is all "through the mercy of my Redeemer."

To one of her friends she spoke very impressively on the duty of cherishing love in the heart, and of not retaining any unpleasant feeling towards any one, entreating her to think how soon we might be laid upon a death-bed, adding that she felt nothing in her heart but love to her and to every one. She earnestly advised the same friend to bring up her children in the fear of the Lord; and after repeating several passages of Holy Scripture, she said,— "Dost thou think I feel what I say? O! I am in "earnest:" and then added that she trusted there was a place prepared for her within the pearl gates.

On receiving a message from some young friends, who felt kindly interested for her, she appeared to be pleased, and remarked,—"I shall never go to "see them again—no; I shall be laid at Halbathac. "But it is no difference where our bones are laid, "if we are but prepared to meet our Saviour: and "I hope I am."

She was desirous of seeing her sisters; and when apprehensive that they might not arrive in time, she requested that a most affectionate assurance of her tenderest love might be given them.

The evening before her decease, she said,—"Oh! "if my Heavenly Father sees fit to remove me this "night, it will be a favour." When a hope was expressed that she would be enabled to wait patiently the Lord's time, she said,—"Yes; that is "my wish." She had the previous morning told her friend M. E. that she had had scarcely any sleep during the night; but it had been a happy night,—that she had never been so comfortable before. And on the medical attendant's expressing some surprise at the remark, seeing it had been so sleepless a night, she again repeated, with a peaceful smile,—"Yes; I can feel comfortable."

Finding that in the course of the evening a little fear had assailed her mind, a friend who was with her reminded her of the precious address of her Saviour:—"Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid," repeating the remainder of the passage. She appeared to receive it with thankfulness, saying,—"Oh! that is such beautiful "language." During the night she prayed earnestly on behalf of every individual of the family, and her heart seemed to overflow with love; and frequent were her expressions of this feeling and that of thankfulness to all around her. Some delirium occurred for a few hours; but towards the fol-

lowing day she became calm; and, though the intervals of consciousness were not long, yet it was evident that her soul was anticipating the blissful change that was in view; and often, with animation and joy, she pronounced her Saviour's name. During an interval of clearness, a message was given her from a dear friend who had called, expressive of his love, and his hope that her Heavenly Father would be near her. She repeated the name of the friend twice; then added emphatically, "Yes; and enabled to say, not my will but Thine be done." Her last connected sentence, which was uttered within five minutes of her peaceful close, was one expressive of tender affection for her attendant; and after a few gentle heavings of the breast, without a struggle, her spirit was released, whilst the sweet hope animated the friends who surrounded her, that an entrance was graciously permitted her into the kingdom prepared, through Redeeming love and mercy, for the humble followers of the Lamb.

In the summer of 1840, Mary Dymond's sisters left Exeter to undertake the superintendence of the Friends' school at Lewes. This step could not be otherwise than deeply interesting to her; and in allusion to it, she writes,—"I quite think that your going to Lewes has been in right ordering, and trust a blessing will attend you." She continued, with her coadjutors, to conduct the school at Stoke Newington till the Midsummer vacation of 1843,

when that establishment was given up. She deeply felt the breaking up of associations that endeared the place to her recollections; as is evidenced in some of the following letters to her friend Mary Ann Buckmaster:—

"Seventh Month 8th, 1843.

"Our school prospects seem less and less cheering. Seven boarders are all that we must now calculate upon. I should imagine that some material change will be made in the winter, or that the concern will be entirely given up then, or at Midsummer. The whole affair is very discouraging, though I do not let it press much upon me. If we leave Stoke Newington, I hope something else will be found for us, though to part will be a great trial, and one I don't know how to contemplate.

"I am already much benefited by the change of air, &c., and am feeling quite nicely."

In the Tenth Month, she accepted an invitation from her kind friend Mary Barclay to spend some time under her roof. From thence she writes to Mary Ann Buckmaster on the 31st of Tenth Month:—

"I see nothing for the future as yet, and must wait in patience, and, I trust, resignation. I am settled in very comfortably, and find my friends very kind. I enjoy my employment; though perhaps it is rather too sedentary to be altogether good for me, though at present I feel no ill effects from it.

"Stoke Newington, Eleventh Month 21st, 1843.

"I am well satisfied with my present lot, and desire to be thankful that such an asylum has been afforded in the needful time. About the future I sometimes feel I ought not to be anxious, but that I ought to trust and not be afraid; but fears and conflicts will sometimes assail me, and tears will find their way when I think of the *past*, and of what may be my future portion."

"Stoke Newington, Twelfth Month 12th, 1843.

"Affection prompts me to scribble thee a few lines this evening, in return for thy last interesting and welcome letter, made doubly so by its being written in a cheerful strain. I trust I feel thankful that thou appears so comfortably settled. Anxious thoughts will sometimes obtrude about the future, yet I endeavour to check anything like a feeling of distrust, hoping, and at times believing, that something will offer for me when I stand in need of it. But notwithstanding this, it does not do to be idle, and I ought to be on the alert, and ready to listen to propositions which may be made. The time of my being here has, I trust, been profitable in more ways than one: the *body* is certainly much renovated; and I hope the *mind* keeps pace with it; though I don't know how it would be with either, were the arduous duties of a school again to devolve upon me. It feels a great relief to be free from these at present; but work I must in some

way; and my very earnest and heartfelt desire is, that I may be rightly directed in *all* my movements. We have indeed experienced many turnings and overturnings during the last two years: may they all turn to our profit and advancement in the heavenly race. To contemplate what has transpired, sometimes makes me sad; but I durst not repine.

"The thought of my dear little bed-room, and the feelings I have there had, often make me shed tears: and indeed the garden, the dining-room, and school-room, are spots which I cannot at all times think of without considerable emotion. But new scenes of action now lie before me, and I would crave to be faithful and diligent in business, wherever my lot may be cast."

"Stoke Newington, First Month 5th, 1844.

"It does me good to hear from thee; and it is a real pleasure and cause of rejoicing to know that thy little bark is sailing pretty smoothly, though doubtless now and then tossed by wind and tide. Considering all things, I think I am pretty free from anxious thoughts, but hope I am not too easy. I desire to be thankful for the blessings I enjoy, which are neither few nor small. I do earnestly desire that light may be permitted to shine upon my path, and that I may undertake nothing out of right ordering. To do this would be to me overwhelming; and I do crave that I may be preserved from it."

Soon after the foregoing letter was written, a proposal was made to her to join her sisters in the school at Lewes, which she cheerfully and gratefully accepted.

TO M. A. B.

"Stoke Newington, First Month 29th, 1844.

"Knowing how interested thou wilt be to hear any good news about me, I must, in the first place, make thee a partaker of my joy, by telling thee that it is really likely that I shall go to Lewes in the summer, and unite with my dear sisters in the school. I don't know how to feel thankful enough for this unlooked-for, and, I think, providential opening. It seems likely to be all that I could desire, and what I should have chosen for myself had I had the opportunity. How mercifully has way been made for me, where I saw no way!

"The prospect of again entering on school duties is, on the whole, very pleasant. I earnestly desire that I may be enabled rightly to fulfil the important duties which seem again likely to devolve on me. To have my own dear sisters to share my burdens will be sweet indeed: but trials I shall have, and difficulties too. But, if in my right place, all will doubtless work together for good. I do earnestly hope that I may be faithful to every manifested requiring. O! how poor a return will this be for the many benefits received."

TO THE SAME.

"Stoke Newington, Third Month 11th, 1844.

"I sometimes feel quite low about our poor Society. Some of the young are serious and well-disposed; but our principles are seldom seen to be carried out as they ought to be. We are, it is true, short-sighted, and know not who may be under the preparing Hand; but, as far as we can see, the probability of a succession of faithful standard-bearers is but small."

Before proceeding to the narration of circumstances attendant on Mary Dymond's new sphere of action at Lewes, we introduce the following "Loving Recollections" of one who was her pupil at Stoke Newington:—

"I do not think that any feature of dear Mary Dymond's character ever struck me as so marked and endearing as that of her large power of sympathy. It was this which encouraged every little home-nurtured child, upon her entrance on the world of school, to throw itself at once upon her guidance and protection. Others were as kind; perhaps even less reserved: but there was a watchfulness in her guardianship, a quiet observation evidenced almost incessantly, which told us at once, that our smallest actions were not matters of indifference to her; that our emotions of joy or sorrow, our dispositions for good and evil, were

each viewed as matters of great importance; that, in short, in that true spirit of the apostle she watched for our souls as one who must give an account. The feeling of responsibility was so apparent, that it imparted a solemnity, at times, to a spirit by no means deficient in natural liveliness and buoyancy. Sin and its manifestations in the young and thoughtless, were to her grave realities; and her manner of reproving it, was, at once, that of a person fully convinced of the evil of sin and its sure remedy in the Gospel.

"Many a quiet walk in the old shady garden of our school at Newington, many an evening visit to my bedside, can I recal, when in her sweet, solemn voice, and affectionate manner, she would faithfully remind me of some trifling or giddiness, some inconsistency in conduct, or failing in temper, which her eye had marked, with the anxiety of her unvarying affection, but which I, perhaps, in girlish thoughtlessness had forgotten. But there was nothing censorious, none of that spirit of worldly judgment, in her gentle reproofs. She spoke always as an erring mortal might speak to her fellow; as one afflicted with the same evil, yet, having found the sovereign cure, urging on us to accept it and be made whole.

"It is a delicate task to give reproof aright; to speak the word not only at the right season, but in the right spirit. There was never anything galling in her well-timed gentle and faithful warnings;

never a word fell from her calm lips which made us feel that we were sunk in her estimation. No; good as she was, she was most merciful and gentle in judgment. And then she was so *true*. I could have trusted her, and I did trust her, with many a youthful sorrow, many a painful doubt, many and many a fault known only to myself and my God. I never distrusted her perfect veracity for a moment, nor had I ever cause. Her yea was yea, and her nay nay. She had a wonderful knowledge of the human heart, with all her fervent charity, which certainly left no lurking censoriousness or suspicion in her soul. She could see through the false with uncommon shrewdness, and was able marvellously to divest things of the extrinsic, and take hold of the intrinsic. Sincerity in her own nature and purpose rendered her keenly alive to displays of pretence and affectation in others; and there was no fault towards which she was less lenient than to any deviation, however small, from the straight line of truth. It was not severity, but a kind of righteous indignation, which seemed to inspire her when reproving that sin which the God whom she so truly loved has declared that He hates.

"I was a little child of scarcely twelve years when first I was placed at school. I believe I loved truth naturally; I am sure it had been carefully nurtured by early education; but once,—the circumstances are scarcely worth repeating,—it was a childish

fault, which I hid by a worse than childish equivocation. One evening I found a letter in my desk,—her usual way of expressing sorrow or sympathy. It was a tender, solemn letter, desiring an interview with me before bedtime, and telling me at once the reason of this request. I went at the appointed time, trembling and humbled. Had there been anything like severity or unkindness, I believe that the habit of deception, but commenced, might have been confirmed; but she wept silent tears. It seemed as though the weight of my sin oppressed her; and I can recollect nothing in that solemn hour so distinctly as those quiet tears. She did doubtless speak to me of the nature and danger of the sin of lying. She read, I remember, one or two texts from the Bible, to prove to me that the lip of truth should be established for ever; but her tears, her quiet grief, her solemn air, dwelt with me day and night long after, and I never forgot her gentle lesson.

"Far different, from that time, was the nature of our private interviews. Glad were her congratulations when she saw any victory gained, any good habit confirmed, any serious impression deepening. And she was not all this to me alone. Many—some, I trust, entered into rest—could bear witness to her loving, untiring labours; and although the paths of her pupils have been various, yet I believe that they have, and not a few, followed her as she followed

the Lamb; and that the memory of her bright example will remain with many of those who survive her, until they shall join her in the song which she is now singing before the Throne,—'Unto Him that loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, be glory and dominion for ever.'"

## CHAPTER III.

1844—1855.

JOINS HER SISTERS AT LEWES—EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS AND MEMORANDA — HER HEALTH GREATLY DECLINES — HER CHARACTER AS A TEACHER—REMOVAL TO BATH.

In the Seventh Month of 1844, Mary Dymond joined her sisters in the school at Lewes. Here, as at Stoke Newington, her chief concern was that her pupils might seek first the kingdom of heaven and its righteousness. Whilst ever-watchful over them, she was also earnest in forwarding their general mental cultivation. She animated them to a diligent pursuit of knowledge; endeavoured to impress upon them the value of time, and the importance of rightly employing their leisure hours, as well as those set apart for school studies. To promote this object, she encouraged them to establish among themselves literary and scientific associations, both at Newington and afterwards at Lewes; and to these she devoted many of her own hours of relaxation.

Twelve months of rest from school labours had renovated her health, and she was enabled to enter

her new sphere with renewed zeal and energy. We resume the extracts from her letters.

TO M. A. B.

"Lewes, Seventh Month 22nd, 1844.

"Dear J. met me on Sixth-day on the way to Lewes, which place we reached in the evening of that day. Friends have received me very kindly. We open to-morrow week, and expect nineteen or twenty girls; which is, I think, very well, seeing the full number has been sixteen. It is delightful to think I have a home once more, and with my dear sisters too."

"Lewes, First Month 1st, 1845.

"I have been much favoured with health, and notwithstanding cold winds, &c., have ailed but little. Lewes appears to suit me very nicely; and I am beginning to feel it a dear and happy home. Trials will, of course, be our portion everywhere; but many comforts and pleasures abound also; and I have much, very much, to be thankful for in many ways. Often are sincere desires raised that I may become more devoted in heart and life to Him, from whom is received every blessing, whether of a spiritual or temporal nature."

"Lewes, Second Month 5th, 1845.

"This afternoon's post brought me a note, conveying the painful intelligence that dear —— [who

had been her pupil at Stoke Newington School,] is taken from us. About eleven o'clock on First-day night her spirit passed away, her relatives thankfully believe, to the arms of her Redeemer. Dear ——! she is, I trust, and fully believe, safely landed. How these early deaths make us feel the importance of diligently labouring with those under our care, and endeavouring to make them appreciate the necessity of a change of heart! May we not be weary in well-doing; but, as ability is afforded, seek to water, that we too may be watered.

"I have lately had one of my weakening attacks, but am now very nicely, notwithstanding the cold weather we have had. Our beautiful hills have been covered with snow, and have looked boldly grand."

"Lewes, Third Month 26th, 1845.

"We are going on much as usual: roses are not always in our path, but we certainly enjoy much of the sweet; though our cup occasionally has a mixture of bitter from outward circumstances, as well as from those which exist within."

In reference to her appointment as clerk to the Preparative Meeting, she writes:—"It is a trial to me, and seems a serious thing, to be engaged in this way for any portion of the church; but I trust I may be helped rightly to perform what will devolve on me, and that neither love of praise nor fear of blame may influence my proceedings."

TO MARY ANN BUCKMASTER.

"Lewes, Ninth Month 24th, 1845.

"How precious it is to feel that we have an anchor to the soul,—that our Heavenly Father knows all things, and that whom He loves He chastens. Dear H——! perhaps her race is nearly run. If it should be so, what unfading bliss awaits her! At least, I think so.

"Sometimes, when I recur to past scenes and feelings, I almost wonder at myself, and am ready to query, why *I* should be thus spared, and renewed strength afforded. May the end designed be altogether accomplished; that so, when the great change shall come, I too may be ready, being made meet to enter the heavenly city, through Him who died that we might live."

TO THE SAME.

"Lewes, Eleventh Month 12th, 1845.

"Last First-day we had the company of —— and —— to tea, and they stayed our reading: after which —— addressed our dear girls very strikingly and impressively. He seemed to think some were preciously visited, and had in good degree yielded to these visitations. It was altogether a memorable time. —— appeared in supplication on behalf of all our family. The girls seemed much tendered, and went to bed under very serious feelings. Thou canst sympathize with me in these

little brooks by the way. They are indeed refreshing and encouraging to the ofttimes weary traveller. I believe what was expressed was the *truth*. Oh! may none of these little ones lose the dew of their youth!

"Notwithstanding these encouragements, there is that of a contrary nature to try and dishearten; but I do believe a blessing rests upon us, and that we shall, if faithful, be helped from time to time."

TO THE SAME.

"Lewes, First Month 8th, 1846.

"We paid a pleasant visit at ——, and were very diligent in calling on most of the Friends. They seem an agreeable company; though I felt somewhat sad when I looked around, and queried who there were likely to fill the places of those who are the heads of the meeting.

"Next Third-day we re-open with a full school. My duties look pleasant in prospect, though, doubtless, many cares and anxieties await; but I really love teaching, and feel greatly interested in my girls. In *our* employment we are almost *compelled to bear the yoke*, though much of the world and its spirit may creep in, in our sheltered lot; and none, perhaps, more entirely need help from above, than we who have the care of the young."

The following are extracted from her memoranda:

"*Lewes, Fifth Month* 31*st*, 1847.—Long is it since I last took my pen to record the feelings of my heart; but, trusting it may be helpful to me in my heavenward way, I venture to re-commence what has been for various reasons laid aside. Many times of late have I felt very poor and weak, but just able to lift my eyes to heaven and say, 'God be merciful to me, a sinner.' Yet there have also been seasons when I have been enabled to rejoice in the Lord, and joy in the God of my salvation. I have been preserved in a calm and, I hope, a trusting state. Oh! Lord, increase my faith.

"*Sixth Month* 10*th*.—Our dear H—— came to Lewes on Seventh-day evening, and remained here until Second-day. He was engaged in testimony in both meetings: to me a time of peacefulness and renewing of strength. Oh! that I may be more truly thankful for all my blessings, and evermore trust and not be afraid. Surely the eye of the unslumbering Shepherd is upon us, and will watch over us in all our conflicts and trials. Though temptations abound, and the enemies of my house are yet felt to be lively and strong, the power and grace of God do much more abound. May I then lay hold of the shield of faith, that thus I may be able to quench the fiery darts of the wicked.

"*Sixth Month* 14*th*.—Yesterday was our Preparative Meeting, when in much fear and trembling

I ventured to express a few words relative to love, &c. This I fully believed to be required of me; but have since *feared* lest it should have been the effects of the working of my own imagination. Perhaps this is a stratagem of our great Adversary to rob me of my peace. Oh! for confiding trust in my Heavenly Leader and Guide; my all in all.

"I have just read to my comfort a sweet little note received from precious ——, when I once before made a remark in a meeting for discipline. Her spirit now rests in the bosom of her Saviour, but her memory lives in many hearts.

"*16th.*— —— was at our meeting this morning. He addressed a state or states present, commencing with,—'Who is among you that feareth the Lord, that obeyeth the voice of His servant, that walketh in darkness and hath no light? Let him trust in the name of the Lord, and stay upon his God.' His communication was then directed to the dear children, beginning with the passage,—'I love them that love me, and those that seek me early shall find me:' an encouraging, touching and heart-tendering appeal.

"Dear —— and I have this evening spent about half-an-hour with the dear girls who are likely to leave school: their hearts were softened. Oh! my Heavenly Father, let thine eye continually watch over them, and be pleased to preserve them in the time of temptation.

"*19th.*—Yesterday our pupils left us; those who

are not likely to return, evidently under a good deal of feeling. M. and I attended the Monthly Meeting, and returned to Lewes with dear —— and ——. I was favoured to feel sweet unity of spirit with them, and something of that love which casteth out fear.

"A half-year of many mercies: the latter part of it particularly sweet: in the former part, many trials, both from within and from without.

"*23rd.*—Yesterday we spent at W———: a pleasant, peaceful day. Was to-day favoured with some renewal of spiritual strength. Oh! Thou Shepherd of Israel, be pleased to keep me on the right hand and on the left; and grant that during this cessation from usual duties, I may be preserved in a state of watchfulness unto prayer; that so I may grow in grace, and receive a little help from thy sanctuary and strength out of Zion.

"*Seventh Month 27th.*—We returned home on last Second-day, after having spent a very comfortable vacation. Two weeks were passed at Exeter, where it was truly pleasant to mingle with those whom we have long known and loved. Many favours during our absence might be recorded, and the faithfulness and tender compassion of Him who has watched over us, and often condescended to give his poor unworthy child to partake of the Bread and Water of Life. To be again brought home in peace and safety is cause for renewed thankfulness; and I desire with fresh earnestness

to press forward. At meeting this morning was unable to keep my mind properly stayed on the Fountain of all good, and for a great part of the time felt dry and empty.

"*Eleventh Month 24th.*—Since I last wrote much has occurred to interest. The half-year was commenced under very hopeful feelings; but almost as soon as we collected together, we were convinced that freedom from anxiety was not to be our portion . . . . . But during this season of trial [occasioned by illness in the family] we were, I trust, enabled to cast our burden upon the Lord, and to look to Him as to a merciful and omniscient God, who afflicteth not willingly the children of men."

The following is an extract from a letter addressed to a young friend who had been a pupil at Lewes school:—

"Lewes, Second Month 14th, 1848.

"I hope thou art entering upon home duties in earnest, and so arranging the time as to find each successive day usefully and profitably employed. A field of usefulness lies open for any who are willing to labour; and I trust thou art one of those who is desirous to lend a helping hand, for the good of thy fellow-creatures. I hope too that studies will not be laid aside. There is so much to learn that some portion of each day should be devoted to improvement. But, dear ——, in whatever engaged, and however occupied, never forget that all should

be kept in its right place, and not be allowed to interfere with the one thing needful. The more we labour in the vineyards of our own hearts, the more alive shall we be to the many weeds that have to be eradicated; and feeling our own utter weakness, shall see the necessity of diligently applying to the great Husbandman for help. May we, above all other things, be seeking to live to His praise, and to be guided by His pure Spirit; then indeed we shall be led safely along, and in the midst of trial and conflict be enabled confidingly to trust in the unconquered Captain of salvation, who died to redeem and to save."

TO MARY ANN BUCKMASTER.

"Lewes, Tenth Month 3rd, 1848.

"Thy letter containing the intelligence of dear H.'s peaceful exit was duly received. To think of her as safely landed on the Heavenly Canaan is indeed sweet; and, though her loss will long occasion a dreary blank, we can but rejoice that her sufferings are over, and that joy ineffable will henceforth be her portion. Her memory will long be cherished by those who knew her, and her quiet, unobtrusive, and humble walk, will loudly speak to her surviving friends."

*Memorandum, dated Sixth Month 17th*, 1848.—"Our vacation commenced yesterday. Nine of our dear girls are not likely to return: and in parting

with them many and fervent have been my desires that He who sleepeth not by day nor slumbereth by night may watch over and preserve them, making them plants of his right hand planting. —— was at our meeting last Fourth-day, and addressed them all very sweetly.

"We have been favoured with a very comfortable half-year, and have often had to acknowledge that the goodness of the Lord has been great towards us. The blessing of health which has been so mercifully granted has often raised feelings of thankfulness and praise."

Amongst other memorandums made about this time, we find allusion to some service in the Church to which she had been appointed.

"Though I felt poor and utterly unworthy, I dared not refuse to allow my name to stand. Weakness and destitution of good seemed for a time my portion; but, when our little company met together, strength was afforded in the needful time, hard things were made easy, and bitter things sweet; and I was mercifully helped to do more than I had any idea would fall to my lot."

And again she writes:—

"I felt how much I was standing in need of Divine assistance and counsel that I might rightly perform the part allotted me; but on endeavouring to turn to my own state, the words, 'As thy day, so shall thy strength be,' were so sweetly and for-

cibly presented to my mind, that I felt as if I could leave all with my Heavenly Shepherd; and this promise was indeed abundantly verified: my spiritual strength was renewed, and my faith and trust increased; and very frequent and earnest have been my desires that I may be entirely devoted to the service of my Saviour, seeking day by day to know and do His ever-blessed will."

The following remarks were addressed to a young friend who had been a pupil at Lewes School, on the occasion of a death of a sister:—

"Sixth Month 16th, 1849.

"When the heart is softened by sorrow such as thine, how unspeakably precious do heavenly things appear, and how empty and unsatisfying those of an earthly and fading nature! Let us, then, with redoubled diligence pursue our heavenward way, forgetting those things which are behind, and pressing towards those which are before, looking with a single eye to the Captain of Salvation, who stands ready to help the Christian warrior, and to clothe with that armour which can quench the fiery darts of the wicked. Our dear love and tender sympathy is towards thee, my beloved ——; and under this feeling I remain

"Thy truly affectionate friend,

"Mary Dymond."

In allusion to the declining health of some aged friends, she writes to the same young person:—

"Lewes, Second Month 19th, 1850.

"When they are taken, we must hope that some will come forward in part to supply their places; some of the young who are desiring the prosperity of Zion, and willing to make some sacrifices in order to assist in upholding that standard of truth, which some of those who are likely soon to be taken from you have so faithfully upheld. None need be discouraged in thinking that they can do no good; for all who are desiring to love and serve their Lord must be of some use, though they may feel themselves to be very poor and unprofitable servants."

TO MARY ANN BUCKMASTER.

"Lewes, Eighth Month 14th, 1850.

"Two weeks of another half-year have passed, and we are again feeling, in some respects, pretty much as if no great interruption to the usual routine had taken place: and yet a moment's reflection calls us back to six weeks of relaxation and of pleasant days spent in our own native county, during which time dear —— was our companion. The plan we had proposed to pursue before leaving home was carried out, much to our enjoyment. We had a lodging at Ilfracombe, commanding a de-

lightful view of sea and hill; and remained there a week, taking several excursions to neighbouring beauties, and enjoying many a ramble on foot. Whilst at ——, part of the house at which we were staying was occupied by some other persons. The party consisted of a mother and three daughters, and two visitors. The day previous to our leaving, the mother, who had long been an invalid, died very suddenly. She went to bed as well as usual, and in the morning was found a corpse. The distress we witnessed, when this was discovered, was very touching. No self-command, no calmness, no trust were to be seen; but loud and unsubdued expressions of grief prevailed for some time; and the scene was altogether fearful . . . . . Let us hope that a change of heart had been effected before the awful summons came. This event cast a gloom over us; but we did not regret having been there.

"From Ilfracombe we went to Linton, with which, the Valley of Rocks, and Lynmouth we were delighted. The rocky little rivers of the East and West Lyn, the woods, the hills and valleys, were truly charming; and we all agree that the North of Devon comes up to our sanguine anticipations. We proceeded to Exeter, and spent ten days very pleasantly there, visiting our relations and many interesting places. We felt it cause for thankfulness that nothing untoward occurred, and that we were permitted to reach home in safety."

TO THE SAME.

"Lewes, Second Month 8th, 1851.

"We certainly want helpers and standard-bearers; for how few there are who are entirely devoted characters! However, so it appears: but there may be, and I hope are, the seven thousand who have not bowed the knee to Baal, or kissed his image.

"I think I have not told thee that for some months past my voice has frequently been very weak, and I find it difficult to read aloud, &c. H. C. says there is follicular disease of the throat; and thinks it probable that it extends lower down than can be seen. He twice applied solution of nitrate of silver; and this has to be done twice a week. Several times lately my voice has been very weak when reading in meeting: and I have resigned my office of clerk to our Preparative Meeting. I do not feel anxious about myself, and can commit all to the care of our Heavenly Shepherd, who is continually watching over us for good."

TO S. S.

"Lewes, Second Month 9th, 1852.

"We are going on comfortably with our many labours. Thy kind and good wishes for us are very welcome. Often, very often, do we feel that of ourselves we can do nothing, and that we do indeed need help, strength, and wisdom from above;

and there are times when we can thankfully acknowledge to the fulfilment of the promise, 'As thy days, so shall thy strength be.' I am favoured to be pretty well, and able to enjoy my duties; though, at times, I feel not one of the strong ones, and find that a little exertion out of the usual course is somewhat overdoing."

TO THE SAME.

"Lewes, Third Month 6th, 1852.

"We stand in need of each other's help, and it is well as we feel ability to obey the injunction, 'Brethren, pray for us.' . . . .

"It is a great favour to be able to enjoy my employments, which I generally can, and enter into them with real pleasure. I feel that there is so very much to be thankful for; and that the lines are fallen to me in such pleasant places, that to complain because of the infirmities of the flesh would savour of ingratitude; and far be it from me to indulge in such feeling. Much rather would I thankfully rejoice in the remembrance of many great and unmerited blessings."

TO A YOUNG FRIEND WHO HAD BEEN A PUPIL AT LEWES SCHOOL.

"Lewes, Third Month 4th, 1852.

"Thou alludes to the rapid flight of time. This appears to increase as we become older, and year

after year soon glides away. How important, then, that we should be endeavouring so to number our days, as to apply our hearts unto wisdom! May it, dear ——, be our chief concern continually to live in the love and fear of God, seeking to know Him to be our constant Guide and Director. If the heart be earnestly set on best things, striving to find access to our Heavenly Father through Jesus Christ, our Saviour, we shall, I doubt not, receive of His heavenly gift; and thus, if they are used to His glory, shall grow in grace, and in all that is good. But how many are the hindrances we meet with; and what constant need there is for watching unto prayer, lest our unwearied enemy prevail against us! Let us not be discouraged, but go forward, putting our trust in Him, who humbleth Himself to behold the things which are in heaven and on earth, and abundantly cares for all those who put their trust in Him. We know He is all-sufficient and near at hand, when we call upon Him, though at times He may see meet to hide His face. 'His compassions fail not: they are new every morning. Great is His faithfulness.'"

In the summer vacation of this year, in company with one of her sisters, and their cousin, Charles Tylor, Mary Dymond made a tour of about four weeks through part of Germany. Her notes of this journey indicate her habit of close observa-

tion, and she concludes them with the following remarks:—

"No English person could visit the cities we did, without drawing some comparisons in favour of those of our own country. The wretchedly paved streets, with the consequent jolting and noise when driving over them; the great fatigue experienced when walking in them, especially on a hot summer's day; the impure smells which greet you at every turn, arising from imperfect draining and a want of cleanliness; the universal practice of smoking at all times and in all places, with its disgusting accompaniments; the flickering oil-lamp suspended by a rope stretched across the street; the custom, in some of the small towns, of allowing man and beast to enter by the same doorway, and the offensive effluvia in the chambers arising from this practice; the accumulation of dirt and rubbish in every Catholic village, and in some Protestant ones; the degradation of the peasant women, in the performance of so much unfeminine and laborious work: all these things, as well as many others, must tend to make a true patriot cling with greater fondness to his country, and prize the privileges which are so abundant there.

"On the other hand, there are some things in which we should do well to imitate our continental brethren. Amongst these is the common practice of having gardens and public walks for the people to resort to. They must tend to the healthiness of

densely inhabited places, and may, as some one has aptly remarked, be called the lungs of large and crowded cities."

In reference to the effect of this tour on her health, she writes :—

"We greatly enjoyed this journey, but I think it was too much for me. We did things very quietly; very differently from most travellers; yet I sometimes felt the need of more rest."

Soon after her return home, she had an attack of indisposition so severe as to induce her, in company with a beloved friend, to spend a few days at Eastbourne to recruit before resuming her school duties.

The following is extracted from a letter written soon afterwards to one who had been her pupil at Lewes School :—

"Lewes, Ninth Month 8th, 1852.

"If ——'s trials have served to draw her nearer to her Saviour, we need not mourn over them; but we may, and ought, to sympathize with her.

"'Trials make the promise sweet,
Trials give new life to prayer,
Bring us to our Saviour's feet,
Lay us low, and keep us there.'

"May we, dear ——, in every affliction and in every time of need, flee to our never-failing Friend with confiding trust and love, and indeed daily and hourly cast all our care upon Him."

TO THE SAME.

"Lewes, Second Month 26th, 1853.

"It is always a great pleasure to know that any of our late dear pupils are occupied in benevolent undertakings. There is so very much that the willing-hearted may do, that I rejoice in hearing of suitable workers. We all know that these things should only hold a secondary place in our minds, and I hope that none of you are allowing them to occupy you so much as to unfit you for the diligent pursuit of still more important and momentous duties—the working in the vineyard of our own hearts."

TO MARY ANN BUCKMASTER.

"Lewes, Eighth Month 1st, 1853.

"A few days [during the summer vacation] were pleasantly passed at Sunderland; and from thence we proceeded to Newcastle. Our friends were most kind, showing us the lions of their town and neighbourhood. . . . . We then went to Edinburgh. Our tarriance here we greatly enjoyed; everything was done to interest us; we were taken to see many things in the city and neighbourhood which excited our admiration. Edinburgh is a beautiful city; and its situation, I should imagine, almost unrivalled. Our little tour in the Highlands was very enjoyable. . . . . .

"The prospect of girding up for labour is for-

midable; but we have hitherto been helped, and may trust and not be afraid."

TO S. S.

"Lewes, Tenth Month 19th, 1853.

"How fleeting the moments ere we too shall be called to render up our stewardship! May we be enabled to do it with joy, being accepted and purified through our Omnipotent Saviour, who gave His precious life that we might live. I am glad to hear that dear —— is nicely: the loss of a parent is a close trial; but I trust she and her sister will know the Lord to be their refuge and a present helper in every time of need."

TO A YOUNG FRIEND WHO HAD BEEN A PUPIL AT LEWES SCHOOL.

"Lewes, Fourth Month 10th, 1854.

"It brought tears into my eyes when I read ——'s remark, that she thought a bond of union existed between all who had been at Lewes. I trust it is so; and that we may all some day meet, —a happy band in Heaven.

"How rapid is the flight of time! May we, dear —— improve the fleeting hours, and be more and yet more earnest to dedicate our lives to the service of that gracious Saviour, who was wounded for our transgressions, and bruised for our iniquities; and still waits to be gracious, and draw us nearer to Himself."

TO MARY ANN BUCKMASTER.

" Lewes, Ninth Month 23rd, 1854.

" Two days after our Proprietary Meeting I had more hemorrhage than I have ever before had at one time, which made me feel very poorly; and I do not yet feel so well as I did previously. My chest is very tender, and I find great difficulty in walking up hill. My digestion is also very weak, and aches and pains are frequent. I have been trying cod liver oil; but cannot manage it very well. With all this, I am favoured, by dint of great care and kindness from my sisters, to get on comfortably with my duties from day to day. I feel I have very much to be thankful for, and would on no account, if I knew it, withdraw from my present employ before the right time; but rest is very sweet to look forward to, and sometimes we think we ought not to go on longer than the summer. If I have much return of my complaint it will be *a must be.* We have more children on our list than we have ever had before; and nothing looks like a change; but all will, I earnestly trust, appear clear, if it be right for us to resign."

TO THE SAME.

" Lewes, Tenth Month 28th, 1854.

" Knowing how interested thou art about our affairs, I must tell thee a little of how we have been going on since I last wrote. My health has not improved; I have had some return of my com-

plaint; and have often been far from well. Teaching is so unfit for me, that we seriously think of giving up the school in the summer. We must decide before the 25th of Twelfth Month.

"We hope to be able to go on as we are, until the summer; but think it doubtful. Perhaps next half-year we shall be obliged to have an assistant. We certainly shall, if I become more poorly. I should like to spend the winter in a warmer place; but could not do this, unless I had at least one of my sisters to be with me; and this cannot be."

Soon after this letter was written, Mary Dymond and her sisters informed the proprietors of the school of their desire to resign their situations at the ensuing Midsummer vacation. Notices of their intentions were accordingly forwarded to the parents of the children.

TO MARY ANN BUCKMASTER.

"Lewes, Eleventh Month 25th, 1854.

"We have had many nice letters from different parents relative to our giving up school-keeping—much regret expressed; but at the same time congratulations on our behalf. It will be an unspeakable relief; and I do believe it will be right for us to be liberated in the summer. Friends here are very kind and considerate. It seems likely that we may remain in Lewes, at least for a time. The next time thou visits us will probably be in our own hired house.

"I have felt stronger and better for the last few days. I do not go out much when it is very cold, as I cannot now walk fast enough to get warm, and have almost entirely given up walking with the girls."

TO THE SAME.

"Lewes, First Month 15th, 1855.

"Thou must excuse a short note, for I am feeling a very poor creature, having been far from well the last few days." [Then, in allusion to a family visit which had been paid to her, she remarks:] "—— said we had been remarkably cared-for in every way, and blessed in basket and in store; and so truly we have; and that language has often of late been in my heart. I am sometimes almost ready to think that my life will not be much prolonged beyond the time of the termination of my school labours. No particular impression; and yet the thought has occasionally gained admission for some years past, and rather more especially since I have been more poorly. It may only be a sort of morbid sensibility; but I desire to leave this, and all belonging to me, to Him who cares for me, remembering the words,—'My times are in Thy hand.'"

TO S. S.

"Lewes, First Month 31st, 1855.

"We have commenced comfortably, though my want of health makes it trying sometimes. I am,

however, helped on from day to day. The thought that it is our last half-year is cheering; and the prospect of rest is sweet; but we know not what may await us: it may be that we never settle down together."

TO MARY ANN BUCKMASTER.

"Lewes, Second Month 21st, 1855.

"I am better than when I last wrote, but do not yet venture out. The cold greatly affects my breathing, and I can only walk very slowly; so that it does not do to stroll along this bitterly cold weather. The few words thou penned brought tears into my eyes: they so touched me.

"I hope the plan for the new school will work well. We are going on comfortably, and have been helped from day to day."

TO THE SAME.

"Lewes, Third-Month 29th, 1855.

"I thought I had told thee we quite intend settling at Bath. We hear very pleasant reports of it: the situation is fine; the country beautiful; and the climate mild. One great inducement to our fixing on this as a place of residence is its being pretty near H——. We shall greatly feel leaving Lewes; but we cannot be in two right places; and we can look with much comfort towards Bath, if permitted to settle down all together. Will it not be strange to have done with school

duties! The thought of rest is delightful; but we shall miss the cheerful group of young ones.

"Hast thou heard of the grand event likely to take place on Seventh-day? Eight or ten of our old pupils propose coming down to stay till Second. They are to bring some offering from former and present pupils. Besides these, several are to come over from Brighton; so that our house will be pretty full. It will be very pleasant to see them.

"I think my strength increases; but I find it needful to keep pretty much in-doors whilst the winds are so cold."

TO THE SAME.

"Lewes, Fifth-Month 8th, 1855.

"Time is going on very swiftly; but I do not now wish its flight to be slower, as I do long for repose. We are getting on comfortably, and feel we have very much to be thankful for. Our dear girls seem disposed to be good; and I trust the end of things will be satisfactory; but we know not what a day may bring forth.

"The visit of the deputation is now an event so long gone by, that it seems somewhat out of date to say anything about it. I must, however, just tell thee that it passed off very satisfactorily: I felt a little overdone; but not materially so. Our present is much admired: almost everyone wants to see it; so that it has been exhibited many times.

"Only about five weeks to our vacation! I do long that we may not leave anything undone that we ought to do; but that, if we are permitted to carry out our plans, we may look back with easy minds to Lewes and Lewes School. I am feeling far from strong,—equal to nothing scarcely,—stomach very weak, and altogether unhinged. Rest will now soon come to us."

The ensuing Midsummer vacation terminated Mary Dymond's school cares; but, before closing the record of this part of her life, a few remarks may be offered on her character, and on the manner in which some of her duties as a teacher were discharged. By the grace of God alone she was what she was. She had long been taught that without the Divine blessing her labours would be in vain, and that any attempts to advance the Redeemer's Kingdom in her own strength would be unavailing: and may her experience be strengthening and encouraging to such of our readers as are similarly engaged!

It was her frequent practice to remind her young charge of the great duty of prayer, of the necessity of bearing in mind the uncertainty of life, and of living in a state of preparation for death. She impressed upon them, too, the importance of private retirement, and the reading of the Holy Scriptures. The sweet counsel or encouragement which sometimes fell from her lips at the close of

the day, has, we hope, been blessed to more than a few of those who were addressed. Many of her pupils have borne testimony to the value of their beloved teacher's influence and instructions. One of them writes, "I, for one, shall never forget her "untiring love and forbearance towards me;" and another, "that religion was with her no dull or "imaginary thing, but a delightful reality of the "highest importance." A third says, "Her beau- "tiful and consistent character first led me to see "my own utter unworthiness; and her quiet and "gentle admonitions, as well as her kind encou- "ragement, had more effect in leading me to seek "to become a true follower of the dear Saviour she "so truly loved. Painfully aware am I that I "have not benefited as I might have done by her "example; but for the little progress that I have "made I am much indebted to her."

The following letter, addressed to some of her pupils at Lewes, and found in their bed-room at night, affords one of many instances that might be adduced, evidencing her earnest solicitude to promote the religious welfare of the objects of her care.

"M DEAR GIRLS,

"Often and earnestly do I desire that you may choose the L rd for your portion, and the God of Jacob for th. lot of your inheritance: and with renewed feelings of this nature, I now write

you a few lines on this most important subject, which, I trust, will claim your attentive and serious perusal.

"There are many amongst you, who, I believe, are not insensible of the visitations of Heavenly Love; at which times you are led to see something of the beauty of holiness, and the exceeding sinfulness of sin. Then lend an attentive ear to your Saviour's voice, who is calling you away from all that is evil, and setting before you the path of peace and safety, in which He would have you walk. Take heed to the tendering operations of His love, and be willing to be humbled by His power. It is 'the meek He will guide in judg-'ment, and the meek He will teach His way;' for He dwells with those who are of a contrite and humble spirit, 'to revive the spirit of the humble, 'and to revive the heart of the contrite ones;' but 'the proud He knoweth afar off.'

"Be not ashamed to confess Him as your Saviour; but faithfully follow where He would lead you; and peace and joy unspeakable will be your portion.

"Should there be any amongst you who are as yet sorrowfully refusing to listen to the reproofs of instruction; saying, in effect, to Him who ought to be 'the chief among ten thousand, the altogether 'lovely,' We will not have Thee to reign over us, Oh! consider, I entreat you, the danger of your position, and come, whilst the invitation is merci-

fully extended, to Him who has so loved you as even to give Himself for you. May you be brought to weep tears of true repentance at His sacred footstool; there seeking for reconciliation with your Heavenly Father, through that gracious Saviour, who was wounded for our transgressions, and bruised for our iniquities, and who now lives as our Advocate and Intercessor!

"To *all* would I most affectionately say, May the morning's dawn find you lifting up your hearts to heaven, to seek for preservation through each succeeding day; and may the shades of evening also find you communing with your God! Let His love and His fear be before your eyes continually; that thus, through true watchfulness of spirit, you may be preserved from falling into temptation, and losing that feeling of peace with which the humble follower of Jesus is often blessed.

"Were there among you this watching unto prayer, you would, I am sure, see the evil of indulging in light and trifling conversation, and feel that it is displeasing to Him who has said, 'That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment;' and the prayer of your heart would often be, 'Set a 'watch, O Lord! before my mouth: keep the 'door of my lips.'

"With much love, and earnest solicitude that you may become the happy possessors of that true

wisdom which 'cannot be valued with the gold of 'Ophir, with the precious onyx, or the sapphire.'

"I am,

"Your sincere and affectionate friend,

"MARY DYMOND."

For many years Mary Dymond had been in a delicate state of health; but she bore her bodily infirmities with cheerfulness and quiet resignation. Unless absolutely obliged to absent herself from the school-room, she conscientiously persevered in her arduous routine of duty. When trials and discouragements arose, either relative to her debilitated health, or in connection with her responsible engagements, she has often been heard to say, "We must strive to be careful for nothing; but in everything to give thanks. We need only live one day at a time: we have been helped hitherto; and doubtless shall be to the end."

She enjoyed in a striking degree that quality so valuable in the educator — evenness of temper. Ever cheerful and self-possessed, she was prepared to meet with calmness and fortitude the exigencies of the moment; and it may be said of her, that, through the power of Divine grace, she was clothed in the beautiful garments of love, joy and peace.

Towards the autumn of 1854, her health had become more decidedly delicate. Her digestive powers were so much weakened, that she was not

able to take sufficient food to support her strength, and often suffered much from debility. For many years she had been very dependent on exercise in the open air, and it had been her practice to take a walk twice in the day, even when the weather was far from inviting. But in the spring of 1855, she was obliged to relinquish these regular walks, and such as she could take had been necessarily much shortened; so that she seldom went beyond the level part of a favourite sunny lane near her own residence.

She was now looking forward with pleasing anticipation to the time of her removal to Bath, where she hoped to obtain what, in writing to one of her friends, she described herself as longing for,—"change, warmth, and repose." And some of her relatives and friends also fondly hoped that these would, under the Divine blessing, be the means of renovating her exhausted frame. But He whose ways are love and wisdom, was pleased to permit these hopes to be frustrated, and to grant unto her that perfect rest which remains to the people of God.

A few days after the dispersion of the school, Mary Dymond's strength was suddenly prostrated; her medical attendant attributing the attack to great exhaustion of the system; and for several days her case was considered critical. She rallied sufficiently to undertake the journey to Bath; and on arriving there, expressed her thankfulness at

having accomplished it with much less fatigue than had been anticipated. This was on the 26th of the Sixth Month; and on the 28th she wrote the following to the friend who had kindly accompanied her during part of the journey from Lewes.

"My dearest ——,

"Many times have I thought of all thy kind and loving actions, and trust they will have their reward. I hope thou reached home comfortably, and found all as well as usual, and thy services not having been much missed. I am not stronger yet, and feel very frail; but have each day risen by breakfast time, which I hope to continue. —— called on us yesterday to know if she could help us: Friends are very kind. There is indeed much to be thankful for: I felt it especially after having so comfortably accomplished my journey. If health and strength do not increase, I hope to be resigned. We know all will be rightly ordered: and I can say, 'My times are in Thy hand.'"

## CHAPTER IV.

1855.

CONTINUED ILLNESS AND DECEASE—SKETCH BY S. CORDER.

On their removal to Bath, Mary Dymond's sisters anxiously watched for some appearance of improvement in her health. Instead of witnessing this, they feared that her strength gradually declined; and obtained her consent to call in medical aid. The opinion given of her state afforded little expectation of her ever becoming materially better; still they hoped that with great care her life might be prolonged for some months. She yet rose soon after seven o'clock; and, when the weather was fine, was generally drawn out for an hour or two in the forenoon in a Bath-chair, and enjoyed the pure air and beautiful scenery from the Park without much fatigue. A drive into the country sometimes followed in the evening; but it was not long before she found the motion of a carriage too much for her.

About this time the following letter was written to her friend, S. S. :—

"Bath, Seventh Month 7th, 1855.

"Since I last wrote, my sisters have persuaded me to consult G. N——. As soon as he saw me,

he thought my lungs were diseased, and said he must examine my chest. He accordingly has done so, and pronounces the left lung to be ulcerated, as well as there being congestion. He was much struck with my being so very thin, and said if the food I took could not be made to assimilate, he feared I should soon waste away. But if this wasting could be arrested, he thinks he shall be able to do me good. My sisters, with respect to care and nursing, are everything to me. They feel my being so weak and poorly; but hope keeps them up. They, and I too, desire to be trustful. We have been mercifully dealt with in very many ways, and ought to be thankful in this time of trial."

TO ——.

"Bath, Seventh Month 11th, 1855.

"Thank thee, my beloved ——, for thy most comforting note received yesterday afternoon. I do at present feel very weak, and in looking a little forward, it seems doubtful whether I shall gain sufficient strength during the fine weather to carry me through another winter; but I desire to be passive in his hands,

'And know no will but His.'

"The blessings we daily receive are many and great; and we surely have abundant cause to be careful for nothing. I am not anxious for

life, but *desire* to be enabled to say, under every circumstance, 'Thy will be done.'

"My beloved sisters are most affectionate and kind nurses: it is a great blessing to have such. The dear lady who gave me the tract, 'The Vessel of Gold, or Sanctified Affliction,' on First-day, met me again yesterday, and told me I had been much on her heart. How very kind! She was once one of dear Elizabeth Fry's prison-helpers, and said she 'loved the Friends.'"

One day, after a restless night occasioned by pain, she said these words had repeatedly occurred to her during her hours of wakefulness:—"If thou "hast run with the footmen, and they have wearied "thee, then how wilt thou do in the swelling of "Jordan?" Words which conveyed to her mind the probability that increased sufferings awaited her. Such indeed proved to be the case; yet He, in whom was her confidence, enabled her to meet them with patience and resignation.

Since her removal to Bath, Mary Dymond and her sisters had been staying at the house of their kind friends W. and F. Naish, who had offered it for their accommodation. On the 18th of the Seventh Month, they removed to one which they had taken and furnished in the environs of the city. She was pleased to be in a house she could call her own, and was able to enjoy the comforts it afforded and the pleasant prospect from her

sitting-room and chamber. Two days later she writes:—

TO S. S.

"Bath, Seventh Month 20th, 1855.

"We know all things are possible; and I may rally, or even linger on in my present state for many months. I trust Heaven would be my home, if I were taken hence; and that a place would be prepared for me through the merits of my precious Saviour. I feel no desire for life on my own account. I know my beloved sisters would greatly feel losing me just as our long-cherished plans are accomplished; but they would, I trust, be supported, and helped to bear all with Christian fortitude. I have been obliged to give up attending meetings at present: it seems quite too much for me.

"We are now in our own house, and pretty much settled. It is a very pleasant situation, quite out of the city. I generally go out for an hour in a chair, my walking powers being nearly gone."

Her strength had rapidly declined during the last fortnight; and on the 27th she had suffered more than usual pain, in addition to extreme weakness. In the evening, being alone with one of her sisters, she said she would take the present oppor-

tunity of naming a few things which she wished to be attended to. "It may be," she added, "some "weeks, or even months, I am looking forward to; "yet they may as well be said while I think of "them." After having done this, she named some of her friends and relatives to whom she wished a little token of remembrance given when she was gone. "I don't know," she added, "how it "may be: it is now a long time that I have been "in a suffering state." And then she sweetly assented to the remark that her Heavenly Father had dealt tenderly with her, in having spared her the acute suffering which some have to bear, by saying, "Yes; 'He stayeth His rough wind in the "'day of His east wind.' I hope you will not "hold me; but be willing to let me go. I should "rejoice to be released, if my time was come. I "feel leaving you and S——: there is nothing else. "Do you hold me?"

When a remark was made relative to her trust in the Lord, she earnestly responded, "In His free, "*unmerited* mercy alone." And in reply to the expression of a belief that with her the day's work had kept pace with the day, she softly but emphatically responded, "Very feebly."

On First-day, the 29th, her weakness was so great, that the labour of dressing was almost too much for her. She, however, got down-stairs about twelve o'clock; extreme languor and exhaustion followed, and in less than an hour she longed

to return again to her chamber; but, with her characteristic determination to exert herself to the utmost, she declined the proposal to go at once to her room, preferring to remain below, and join her sisters at the dinner-table. She was soon afterwards assisted up-stairs for the last time; never again being equal to the effort of rising.

During Third-day night, her breathing became much affected. This was a distressing attack: yet she was calm and composed throughout, and acknowledged that the everlasting arms of the unslumbering Shepherd had been underneath to support in this hour of need. "I thought I should "have gone," she said; "I am so weak." A peaceful quiet pervaded her chamber, whilst her thoughts were evidently absorbed in the contemplation of the glorious change that awaited her.

Early the next morning extreme exhaustion came on, which was succeeded by uneasiness and a little rambling; but the cloud was quickly dispelled, and a time of sweet peacefulness followed, during which, some instructive remarks were made to those around her.

About four o'clock on Fifth-day morning, being attacked with another fit of exhaustion, the family collected around her bed, in expectation that her purified spirit would be released from its emaciated tabernacle. That time, however, had not arrived; her work of prayer and praise was not yet accomplished. One of her brothers arrived in the

evening of this day, whom she was much pleased to see again. After the lapse of nearly twenty-four hours, during which those around her had again and again thought they were about to witness nature's last struggles, she greatly revived and was strengthened to praise and magnify her Heavenly Father's love and mercy towards her. Among other remarks which she made whilst so much revived, she said, "I have been thinking much of "the friends who have succeeded us in the school. "I hope they will be blessed, and the dear children. "The young have many temptations. Tell them "that on my dying bed I entreat them to seek "their Saviour above all things." She then sent messages of affectionate remembrance to various individuals whom she loved and esteemed; and also said that she felt much interested in all the Friends of this meeting; and naming a few, with whom she had had most intercourse, said she wished her love to be given to them.

Prayer was then poured forth by her on behalf of her nearest relatives, for a beloved friend who was present, for each member of her family, and a few others to whom she had felt closely united; and now, as well as on another occasion, she petitioned in an especial manner for all those who are called publicly to labour in the Lord's service.

During the next two days she uttered at intervals many solemn expressions, in a clear and

melodious voice; amongst which the following are particularly remembered:—

"Great and marvellous are Thy works, Lord God "Almighty; just and true are all Thy ways, Thou "King of saints." — "Who shall not fear Thee, "O Lord, and glorify Thy name? For Thou only "art holy."—"Love reigns."—"Jesus reigns." "Thou hast made a way in the sea, and a path in "the great waters, where Thy footsteps are not "known."—"Our Father, who art in Heaven, "hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. "Thy will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven."

Early on Second-day morning, a distressing attack of oppression on the breath came on. When it had a little abated, she prayed to her Heavenly Father for His help and holy presence, adding, "I know thou art near;" and, after recovering, "I "know thou hearest prayer." This was followed by a song of thanksgiving and praise; and some time afterwards she said, — "Thou hast forgiven our "iniquities. Thou hast been around and about us. "Be with us all. Strengthen us by Thy Spirit;" adding, that, while communing with her Heavenly Father, she had been permitted to feel almost in His presence, and to have a foretaste of some of the glories that awaited her. "I have seen," she solemnly said, "a great white throne, with "people around singing praises to God. The Lord "will send His angels to conduct me thither, where

"I shall sing His praise for evermore. Amen. So "let it be." And in a melodious and triumphant tone she then repeated the following lines:—

"What is this absorbs me quite;
Steals my senses; shuts my sight;
Drowns my spirit; draws my breath?—
Tell me, my soul, can this be Death?

"The world recedes; it disappears;
Heaven opens on my eyes; my ears
With sounds seraphic ring:
Lend, lend your wings—I mount—I fly—
O Grave! where is thy victory?
O Death! where is thy sting?"

Many other solemn and instructive expressions fell from her lips; she repeated many passages of Holy Scripture; the following very impressively: "Whom have I in Heaven but Thee? and there is "none upon earth that I desire beside Thee." And also, in prayer: "If consistent with Thy righteous "will, take me to Thyself. Come Lord Jesus! "Grant me an easy passage. Why tarry the "wheels of Thy chariot? I heard their sound;— "but they wait."

On Third-day morning, after something had been done for her which it was hoped would tend to her comfort, she remarked: "The movement of every "hour is known to our Almighty Father."

Later in the day, when her sisters and a dear friend were again standing around her bed, she

took an affectionate leave of each, and shortly after said, "I shall soon be in Heaven. Jesus is "waiting for me. You must not hold me back. "I commend my soul to Thee."

She expressed but little after this, except sending messages of love to some absent relatives. The last night of her life was remarkably quiet and peaceful; she dozed for hours with little interruption. Soon after six o'clock in the morning she took some refreshment, and queried of one of her sisters when the school at Lewes commenced; and on being told that it opened the day before, and that her message had been sent, she appeared pleased and satisfied. She then lay for about half an hour in undisturbed stillness, when a slight oppression on her breathing occasioned her to ask for more air. The window was opened, and her head slightly raised. She continued to breathe shorter and fainter for about ten minutes, when her purified spirit was gently released.

She died on the 8th of the Eighth Month, 1855; and the interment took place at Bath on the 14th.

The following lines, addressed by her friend Susanna Corder to Mary Dymond's sisters, may form an appropriate conclusion of this Memoir:—

"The termination of your beloved sister's comparatively short but honourable life has excited in my heart emotions of very tender interest. That such an event was impending had long been to me an object of painful anticipation; but now that it

has been realized, I have mournfully felt how much that was connected with my best affections, and that exercised a quiet but powerful influence in promoting the true welfare and happiness of many, has passed away from this state of being. But *her work was done;* and through the assistance of that grace by which, even in early youth, her spirit became in a precious degree subject to the will and to the cross of her blessed Redeemer, she was enabled to labour faithfully in the sphere allotted her; and was instrumental in sowing, in youthful hearts, the seed of the heavenly kingdom, on which, as I reverently believe, the blessing has descended from on high, producing fruit to the glory of God.

"Few have been endowed with talents so extended and various as were entrusted to her charge. She was by nature gifted with a vigorous mind, an enlarged understanding, a solid judgment, and with no small measure of lively genius. She delighted in the acquisition of knowledge; and when, as my pupil at Stoke Newington, she was engaged in study, her progress in learning was rapid, and at the same time substantial; and in after years, whilst employed as one of my valuable assistant teachers, her services were highly and justly estimated, both by myself and by those who shared her instructions.

"But there was a far more important link that bound us together; and to this source of union I cannot allude without a solemn sense of that pre-

cious influence, which from time to time operated on her mind, leading her to seek, in much sincerity, to learn of Him 'who was meek and lowly in heart'; and very striking was the effect of her thus yielding to the visitations of Divine Love: for her conduct and example were such as became the humble disciple of Christ. Her disposition was amiable, gentle, and obliging; and she was greatly beloved by the interesting circle around her. She was diffident and retiring in manner, conscientiously careful in word, and circumspect in deportment.

"The remembrance of her sweet spirit continues to be encouraging and animating to me. She has fought the fight; and through faith, she has, I feel assured, obtained the crown of everlasting life."

London: Printed for W. & F. G. Cash, 5, Bishopsgate Without.